

JPRS 84406

26 September 1983

Latin America Report

No. 2744

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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26 September 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2744

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TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE FROM AREA OIL MINISTERS MEETING

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

LATIN American Oil Ministers have recorded their recognition of the recently established Caricom Regional Energy Action Plan (REAP).

At the meeting of oil exporting countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which took place in Venezuela on Monday, the Energy Ministers felt that decisions taken would develop and strengthen activities of regional energy cooperation including REAP.

Trinidad and Tobago was represented at the meeting held in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, by a five-member team headed by Rep. Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources.

Caricom Heads meeting recently in Port of Spain approved the Regional Energy Plan.

The Trinidad and Tobago team was due to return home late yesterday.

In a communique issued at the end of the meeting, the ministers from Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago stated that they had agreed to explore in detail concrete opportunities for joint action.

However, they steered away from making any announcement of any plans for formation of any organisation similar to the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC).

They emphasised the need for co-operation among the regional petroleum exporting countries and among matters they agreed to explore was reciprocal assistance in marketing.

THE COMMUNIQUE

Text of the communique issued following the meeting is as follows:

On August 1, 1981, in Puerto La Cruz, Anzoategui, Venezuela, at the invitation of the Minister of Energy

and Mines of Venezuela, the Ministers of Energy of Ecuador, Ing. Gustavo Galindo; Mexico, Lic. Francisco Labastida, Trinidad and Tobago Hon. Patrick Manning, and Venezuela, Dr. Humberto Calderon Berti, held informal conversations on various possibilities for reciprocal co-operation.

In reviewing the energy situation in Latin America, the Ministers noted that their four countries hold reserves of 73 billion barrels representing 92 per cent of the proven oil reserves of the region and 25 billion barrels of oil equivalent, representing 78 per cent of natural gas reserves.

Their oil production which in 1982 amounted to five million barrels per day (bpd) represented 81 per cent of total production in Latin America.

However, the petroleum exports of the four countries are directed primarily towards markets outside of the region while Latin American imports are obtained mainly from non-regional countries.

Thus eight out of every ten barrels exported by the four countries are sold outside of Latin America while the majority of the domestic requirements of the region are obtained from extra-regional sources.

The Ministers underlined that these acts demonstrate the great possibilities for co-operation among the four regional exporting countries as well as with the other countries of Latin America.

The possibilities for co-operation among the four countries in petroleum and petroleum related activities were the subject of an in depth examination by the Ministers in the course of their discussions.

The Ministers agreed to explore in detail concrete opportunities for joint action in the following areas.

- Training and personnel;
- Transfer of technology and technical co-operation;
- Industrial complementarity particularly in capital goods and engineering services;
- Reciprocal assistance in marketing;
- Co-operation programmes with other countries in the region.

These activities would be developed at different levels with the participation of ministries, national petroleum companies and

technological and development centres or institutes.

They would also serve to strengthen the activities of regional energy co-operation such as the Latin American Energy Co-operation Programme of OLADE, the activities of ARTEL and the recently established Caricom Regional Energy Action Plan.

In examining recent developments in the international petroleum market, it was agreed that there are times of greater market stability after a particularly difficult period.

The Ministers agreed to increase and systematise their exchange of information on the situation and perspectives of the national petroleum industry in their respective countries as well as trends in the international oil market.

The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

The Ministers agreed that it would be beneficial to hold further informal meetings and that the next meeting would be held in the second half of November in Mexico.

BRIEFS

ISLAND-WIDE POWER OUTAGE--A massive powercut blacked out most of Jamaica yesterday afternoon and at press time, electricity was just returning to some sections of the island. According to a spokesman for the Jamaica Public Service Company, at 4.27 p.m. yesterday the B6 unit at the Hunt's Bay power station in Kingston tripped out of service because of a loss of the cooling water supply. As a result of the system load in the Corporate Area, the transformer at Duhaney and the Tredegar sub-stations became overloaded and tripped out. The surge of this tripping-out put the units at the Old Harbour plant in St Catherine out of service. About 90% of the JPSCo system islandwide was affected. Service was gradually being restored starting from about 7.30 last night, with full restoration expected later. Yesterday morning, the upper half of downtown Kingston above Harbour Street was hit by power outages caused by a burnt-out jumper cable on a feeder out of the Darling Street sub-station. Power was restored shortly before the massive power blackout was experienced. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/894

TEXACO STATUS REMAINS UNRESOLVED; DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE

Company: Waiting on Government

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Inc. (Textrin) is still awaiting a reply from Government over the acquisition of 75 per cent the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery for US \$200 million.

Three months ago, Texaco's parent company in New York offered 75 per cent interest of the refinery to the Trinidad Government.

Asked yesterday whether the company could ease refining crude, Texaco said any course of action would depend largely on the reply by Government.

A Cabinet-appointed inter-ministerial committee chaired by Labour Minister Errol Mahabir was mum on the Texaco offer.

Texaco in the meantime is carrying out refining at a reduced level, 65,000 barrels daily with 37,000 of this coming from Trintoc under a processing agreement.

A company source said Texaco could not continue operating under 100,000 barrels daily and a tough decision was in the offing.

Over the past week the top managerial personnel had been briefing senior supervisory staff at Beaumont Hill Centre, Pointe a Pierre, on its operations.

Following those meetings certain supervisory staff came to the conclusion that the company might consider closing down very soon its refining if Government did not respond to the purchase offer and revision of the pricing structure of crude.

On the pricing issue Textrin said it was their understanding that the pricing committee was to meet shortly to resolve all outstanding pricing matters.

The company said the current market prices are depressed world wide: "Textrin is not permitted by current tax law to offset losses in refining and marketing against earnings in producing and vice versa."

On the question of the supplemental petroleum tax, Textrin said: "As we stated on July 21, 1983, the company was pleased that action to reduce the supplemental petroleum tax on land production had been taken but the company was disappointed that the inter ministerial committee did not see fit to reduce this tax to the level required to permit the full investment programme outlined by Textrin."

"As soon as the price for crude is established Textrin will be in the position to review the viability of each area of its land operations to determine the level of investment that can be supported."

The company said the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery has capacity in excess of 200,000 bpd. The refinery operating at between 100,000 to 150,000 bpd is an optimum with indigenous Trinidad crude.

Meanwhile it is reported that it would cost Trintoc at the end of this year about \$116 million to refine its crude at the Pointe a Pierre refinery in accordance with an arrangement made by Government.

Current Capacity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Inc. (Textrin) can refine Galeota crude and can handle up to 35,000 barrels daily at present levels.

In a reply to a question that Texaco could not handle crude produced off the East Coast by Amoco, the company said a very large number of different crude types have been run at Pointe-a-Pierre over the years and the Galeota variety would present no problems.

Mr. Robert Powers, president and general manager of Amoco, said last week that the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery was built to refine gravity crude for the East Coast fuel oil market.

He was at the time commenting on Amoco's participation in local refining.

Texaco, however, said its refinery's capacity for fully refining crude is between 100,000 and 120,000 bpd depending on the type of crude being processed.

At that level sufficient charge stock is made available to run the fluid cracking unit and the catalytic reforming unit at capacity and so optimise the processing economics.

The company said that "at our present throughput level of 65,000 bpd, Pointe-a-Pierre could comfortably run up to an additional 35,000 bpd of Galeota crude before exceeding the downstream capacity of the cat cracker."

Manning Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] San Fernando--Government is moving closer to a decision on Texaco's offer of 75 percent of its Pointe-a-Pierre refinery for US \$200m.

And in coming to a decision, the Government has been consulting oil exporting countries--"countries that have gone through the situation that we are going through--but we have also been making our contacts with other international companies that are experienced in this area and possesses resources on which the government of Trinidad and Tobago can draw."

This was told to a Marabella political meeting of the People's National Movement on Thursday night by Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, while speaking in support of his party's candidates in Monday's Local [few lines illegible] and Mr Solan Douglas (Marabella).

Mr Manning said that two months ago he visited a large refinery in Venezuela--630,000 barrels a day capacity--and that refinery was running now at a throughput of about 330,000 barrels a day, just roughly half.

"We had a big refinery in Aruba--that's the Exxon refinery. There are other large export refineries in the Caribbean, in Northern Venezuela, Curacao, Aruba, St Croix and the Bahamas.

There is a big Shell refinery in Curacao. There are 12 refineries in Venezuela. There is a big refinery--the Amerada Hess refinery--in St Croix. There is a 535,000 barrels per day refinery in Bahamas. He mentioned another refinery--the Corco--in Puerto Rico which was shut down about two years ago.

"And all the refineries in the Caribbean have been affected by economic circumstances by the reduction in the world demand for petroleum, by the disappearance of that East Coast market which has now become a net exporter of fuel oil and therefore faces exactly the same problems that the Trinidad and Tobago refinery is facing.

"In those circumstances Texaco made appropriate proposals to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and in making those proposals in offering the refinery for sale, Texaco made it clear that the company itself was doing a rationalisation study of its refinery capacity around the world."

Matter of Strategy

Mr Manning said that it has already shut down three of its refineries and there are other candidates for possible shut down.

He said that "in discussions with us they have made it clear that the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery no longer has a place in the Texaco refining system."

What does the Government do, he asked. Should the Government allow the refinery to shut down and 3,000 people be put out of work?

What would Marabella be like if that took place? A town that was built up on the basis of refining operations at Pointe-a-Pierre.

No reasonable government could be expected to allow such a situation to take place unless, of course, as a matter of strategy, the Minister told the gathering.

He said: "We are in discussions with Texaco, discussing not only the future role of the refinery but discussing the future role which Texaco may wish to play in the petroleum economy of our own country."

Senior Worker Layoffs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

MORE than 600 senior workers of Texaco Trinidad Inc. (hourly-rated, weekly-paid and monthly-salaried) have already been paid their benefits under the terms of settlement between the company and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union relating to early retirement.

The agreement, signed last April at the Ministry of Labour, went into effect on May 1. The company was expected to retire about 800 workers within three months.

Pensionable service is being calculated as though the employees had worked to age 65.

One of the main benefits enjoyed

by the workers resulting from the early retirement agreement is a tax concession — no tax payable on the first \$80,000.

Questioned as to whether the company had plans for further retrenchment, a Texaco spokesman said that was not being contemplated.

CSO: 3298/895

BANK FINDS LINK BETWEEN OIL REVENUES, FOREIGN RESERVES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

PORT OF SPAIN, Aug. 3, (CANA):

A leading locally-owned commercial bank has suggested that the more than TT\$1-billion (1 TT dollar : 41 cents US) drop in Trinidad and Tobago's foreign reserves between March 1982 and March this year could be a reflection of the country's inability to make up for the continuing decline in petroleum revenues.

The International Industrial Merchant Bank of Trinidad and Tobago was referring to bank figures which showed that at the end of March this year, the foreign reserves stood at TT\$5,937-million, compared with TT\$7,092-million at the same time last year — a decline of TT\$1,115-million.

"This can be interpreted as the inability of the country to replenish the reserves as oil prices decline," the bank said in its June-July monthly economic bulletin.

It added: "Government drawdown from the reserves to meet existing expenditure coupled with current levels of imports as well as substantial net sales of foreign exchange to the commercial banks has precipitated the situation."

This oil-rich twin-island republic, whose economy is dominated by oil revenues, benefited from the quadrupling of world market prices in 1974 as well as successive increases, but within recent times has been hit by declining production and the fall in world demand and prices.

The oil boom resulted in the Trinidad and Tobago net foreign reserves climbing steadily from TT\$1.6-billion in 1975 to a peak of TT\$7.8-billion at the end of July last year before going into a decline, as the "oil boom years" began to wane.

Both Government and private sector officials have voiced concern about the flight of foreign capital, especially since the historic cut in world prices last March from US\$34 a barrel to US\$29 by the powerful oil cartels, OPEC — the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

At least one Government Minister has spoken about the leakage of foreign exchange, which he said was being used mainly for the purchase of non-essentials.

"The haemorrhage of scarce foreign exchange must be stopped," said Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, after reporting a loss of TT\$1.2-billion in foreign currency during the first six months of this year alone — a period when the country normally adds to its reserves.

And, the head of a large insurance company, former Finance Minister Mervyn DeSouza, said if the current rate at which the country is drawing down on its reserves continues, there will soon be none left.

Oil production here (both on and off-shore) began a decline from a peak of 229 500 barrels per day in 1978 to 177,234 barrels per day last year. The monthly average of 138,349 barrels per day recorded for May this year was 11.6 per cent below the 1982 average.

PDVSA FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE DURING FIRST SEMESTER REPORTED

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 22 Aug 83 p 2-2

[Text] A preliminary report on the financial performance of the Venezuelan oil industry during the first half of 1983 reveals one fact that may be auspicious: During that period of time, while government participation dropped by about 3 percent (639 million bolivars), the private share rose 17 percent (516 million bolivars) as a result of the reduction in the gap between the export value level (government oil price) and the sale price, which naturally was reflected in a substantial increase in overall profits of the industry. Even so, those profits were small when compared with financial requirements for new investments which the industry has planned.

The report in question states that overall income from sales of the oil industry during that period of time was 33,123,000,000 bolivars, 96 million bolivars under the total for the same period of 1982. This was due to a drop of 1,035,000,000 bolivars in exports. In addition, costs and deductions amounted to 14,972,000,000 bolivars (\$7.87 a barrel), 166 million bolivars higher than the total for 1982, which was 14,806,000,000 (\$8.81 a barrel).

Government participation during the 6-month period was 19,996,000,000 bolivars, compared with 20,635,000,000 during the same period in 1982. Private participation was 3,657,000,000 bolivars, compared with 3,031,000,000 in 1982. In other words, while there has been a reduction in government participation of 639 million bolivars, there is an increase in private participation of 516 million bolivars during the same period. Regarding the elements making up private participation, the legal contribution (to the PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.]) was 2.19 billion, compared with 2,344,000,000 during the first half of 1982 -- that is, a reduction of 154 million bolivars due to the drop in the sale price, which went from \$27.44 a barrel during the first half of 1982 to \$25.09 a barrel in 1983.

In addition, net profits of operators reached the figure of 1,357,000,000 bolivars during the period of 1983 being analyzed, compared with 687 million during the same period of 1982, with a drop of 670 million bolivars as the result of a reduction in the gap between the sale price and the export value already mentioned.

All the foregoing was possible with an average production of 1,902,000 barrels of liquid hydrocarbons a day and an export volume of 1,517,000 barrels a day for the first half of 1983, compared with 1,693,000 barrels of production a day and 1,509,000 barrels exported a day during the same period of 1982. In addition, the amount of investments during the first half of 1983 was 5,583,000,000, compared with 6.39 billion invested during the first half of 1982.

In short, the financial performance of the oil industry during the first half of the year means that even within the atmosphere of recession affecting the world and national economy, this activity is still treading on firm ground.

11,464

CSO: 3348/646

BRIEFS

OIL MARKET IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED--Venezuela's oil production as well as exports will experience a trend toward expansion during the second half of this year, according to estimates of experts and based on the behavior of oil production and exports during the first six months. Actually, from January to June of this year, production increased by 144,000 barrels compared with the same period in 1982 and exports registered an increase of 180,000 barrels a day, going from 1,406,000 barrels a day in 1982 to 1,586,000 in 1983. Humberto Calderon Berti, minister of energy and mining, agreed with his colleague from Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Ahmad Zakī Yamani, who said that international oil demand should reflect a substantial increase in the months to come as a result of the improvement in the international economic situation. Calderon Berti and his Venezuelan colleague, Arturo Sosa, have advanced the idea that average exports of crude and oil products this year may total 1.6 million barrels a day and that the average price may be \$26 a barrel, compared with \$25.13 a barrel throughout the first six months of this year. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 14 Aug 83 p 1-1] 11,464

CALDERON BERTI ON PRODUCTION--Unless some emergency occurs changing the normal patterns of real market demand or unless, because of the positive trend of economic recovery, the market should require a greater contribution, the government of Venezuela maintains that on the level of OPEC, the scheduled oil production must be maintained, a level that is basic in order at the same time to maintain the level of discipline so far achieved, with the positive results known to all. Humberto Calderon Berti, minister of energy and mining, has outlined the three points constituting the Venezuelan position on oil production and exportation on the OPEC level: 1) maintaining the scheduled rate of production, which has demonstrated that it is the most suitable, because of its contribution to the stability of the international oil market; 2) adopting any modification of production levels through OPEC, in order to avoid any problems; and 3) basing any consideration of the mobilization or alteration of the production ceiling established in London in March of this year solely on actual demand and not possible situations of the reactivation of inventories in the developed countries. Otherwise, there will be a repetition of the experience of the first quarter of 1982 and 1983, when major consumers used their inventories as a tool to bring about a drop in prices based on an abrupt reduction in demand. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 20 Aug 83 p 2-11] 11,464

CORPOVEN REFINING OPERATIONS--During the first half of this year, CORPOVEN [subsidiary of PETROVEN (Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.)] concentrated its refining efforts on fulfilling objectives and responsibilities involving the supplying of products to the domestic and export markets on a steady basis, refining some 123,000 barrels of crude oil a day during that period, a higher volume than planned. The refineries included El Palito in the state of Carabobo, Bajo Grande in the state of Zulia and El Toreno in the state of Barinas. Gasoline production at CORPOVEN refineries totaled 49,000 barrels a day and an average of 26,000 barrels of heavy fuel were delivered to the Central Thermo-electrical Plant in Moron, Carabobo. Worthy of notice was the processing record achieved at the El Palito Refinery on 26 June: 119,800 barrels in one day after the sump pumps were replaced at the atmospheric distillation unit. In addition, the Yagua Distribution Plant took delivery of its first supply of products and the El Palito Refinery assumed responsibility for supplying all products to the central region of the country when operations of the LAGOVEN [subsidiary of PETROVEN] Distribution Plant at Puerto Cabello halted operations. In all refining activity, CORPOVEN maintained strict cost control based on guidelines set by the enterprise for all operations. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 22 Aug 83 p 2-4] 11,464

CSO: 3348/646

LESTER BIRD HAILS PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM, HITS DETRACTORS

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 30 Jul 83 pp 2, 5

[Speech by Honourable Lester Bird at handing over ceremony at Parliament Building on July 22, 1983]

[Text]

Honourable President of the Senate. Honourable Speaker of the House, distinguished friends of the House of Commons in Britain, Honourable colleagues.

On the face of it we have assembled today as an act of courtesy. Our distinguished and honourable friends from the House of Commons in the United Kingdom have come to deliver an Independence gift to the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda. This graceful gesture is a courtesy to this Honourable House which, at Independence, severed its formal connection with Westminster after three centuries of association. For our part, we have gathered here in acknowledgement of the thoughtfulness which our friends in Britain have shown to us. We wish to recognise that thoughtfulness and show our gratitude for it.

But it would be a mistake to believe that this assembly is simply about acts of courtesy or good manners. Beyond the ceremony of presenting a gift of a speaker's chair, there is a deeper and wider significance.

The essence of that significance was captured by Mr. John Silken, an Honourable member of the British House of Commons, who spoke on the motion that a Speaker's chair should be given as a gift to the Parliament of an Independent Antigua and Barbuda. Mr. Silken prayed that the chair would serve as a symbol of the importance which we, the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and they, the British people, attach to democracy and freedom.

He expressed the hope that such democracy and freedom would flourish in both our countries.

I wish to associate myself with the prayers and hopes of Mr. Silken, for democracy and freedom are as precious to humanity as food and water. Without them, mankind would starve for justice and thirst for right in a famine-calculated by dictatorship and drought measured by tyranny.

We in Antigua and Barbuda, have known freedom and democracy for many decades. I am proud to state on be-

half of all my countrymen, that no general election conducted while my party or the party on the other side held power, has ever been rigged. Elections have been freely and fairly held and the people's will has prevailed in the formation of a government.

Of course, there are those outside this assembly, those who serve foreign masters and alien ideologies, like false idols; they would like to divert us from our democratic traditions and to institute a new system, completely at odds with our customs and culture. That new system would make us a tool of a foreign power and rob us of our independence and freedom.

Those who would set upon this path, cover themselves in the raiment of the pure, but they are wolves in sheep's clothing. They enjoy a free press and they abuse it. They enjoy the right of free speech and they malign it. They are privileged to benefit from a judicial system that is impartial and they curse it. Such is the strength of democracy in this country.

They preach that the Westminster system is not democracy. They claim that the system of one man, one vote and the exercise of that vote in choosing a government is not democracy. But surely it is better democracy than the seizure of power at the point of a gun. Surely it is more desirable democracy than a system in which governments sustain themselves in power totally ignoring the popular will of the people. What is more, this system of democracy has proven itself over centuries. Our friends from the British parliament are living testimony of a system which demands full participation of the people in electing and rejecting governments.

A system which has worked in Britain for generations and which has brought the mightiest government to account.

Therefore, my friends, this gift which the British House of Commons has so generously presented to us is an appropriate reminder of the importance and value of our democratic system which permits the people to elect and reject their representatives. We thank the

British Parliament for its considerateness, and through our friends who have come to make the presentation, we assure all our colleagues in the British Parliament and in every democratic country in the world that as long as this government remains in office, democracy and freedom will flourish and thrive in Antigua and Barbuda.

But if I may speak for a moment direct to our friends from Britain - you should know that the people of the Caribbean love freedom. They treasure their democra-

tic traditions. Where democracy has been breached, where freedom has been compromised, these are mere aberrations in a wider tapestry of democratic freedoms and traditions which are strongly upheld and staunchly preserved by the Caribbean people. It is only a matter of time before the walls of despotism which guard the structure of repressive government come tumbling down, discarding in its rubble those who delude themselves that the Caribbean people are so ignorant that they cannot recognise oppression for what it is.

My friends, let the presentation of this speaker's chair be an occasion for a new resolve to preserve freedom and promote democracy in this land and every land where man values his dignity and self-respect. I believe that is the most fitting thanks we could give to its presenters.

THANK YOU.

CSO: 3298/896

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANTI-INFLATION CLAIM DISPUTED

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 30 Jul 83 p 8

[Text]

The Antigua Chamber of Commerce has learnt with great surprise, that the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) has claimed in advertisements to have brought down the Cost-of

Living in Antigua and Barbuda, by being the sole agents for the importation of rice and sugar thereby reducing the retail cost of these items together with local produce and other items through their Super-market Outlet. The inference being that prices would have been higher if private traders were responsible for the importation.

Unfortunately, the facts and figures available to the Chamber do not support this claim. It should be noted at this point that the price of rice and sugar on the world market is extremely low, and there have been reductions in freight rates.

On 9 March, 1983, the Chamber wrote to the Ministry of Local Government and Consumer Protection pointing out that the figure presented by the CMC for the retail price of white sugar clearly showed a con-

tradicting interpretation of the Statutory Order governing the pricing of the aforesaid items. The CMC's own figures, using their interpretation, compared with the figures of other importers proved that their retail price of white sugar (67¢ per lb.). The Ministry in their reply dated 20 May 1983, confirmed that CMC's interpretation of the regulation was incorrect and that they would be so informed.

On 9 June, 1983 The Chamber had occasion to write to the Ministry again, informing them of CMC's departure from the said Statutory Order, this time on the importation and pricing of rice, by adding 5% Commission to the Landed Cost, to arrive at a distributor's price, to which the Wholesale and Retail prices are added. Naturally, this Commission inflates the retail price.

The Antigua Chamber of Commerce cannot therefore accept that the CMC has contributed to the reduction in the Cost-of living. On the contrary, the facts and figures confirm that the opposite has resulted.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CABINET MEETS WITH UIA, EPISCOPAL TEAM

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] NA--The members of the socio-economic cabinet met yesterday at the Ministry of Interior with the members of the Episcopal Social Pastoral Team and representatives of the Argentine Industrial Union [UIA] to pursue the analysis of the country's socio-economic problems and especially the requests made by the two trade union federations.

At its conclusion, the president of the Argentine Industrial Union, Roberto Favelevic, reported that decisions had not been taken since it behooved the government to make them and he suggested that the official response to the trade union demands cannot be delayed beyond tomorrow, the deadline given by the trade union leadership, as is known, to adopt strong measures. He disclosed that before the meeting which will be held in the afternoon by the socio-economic cabinet, the Social Pastoral Team, and the leaders of the two General Confederations of Labor, the authorities of the UIA will meet again with the ministers of labor and social action, Dr Hector Villaveiran and Adolfo Navajas Artaza, respectively, to continue with the analysis of the issue and he pointed out that yesterday they had requested that the minister of the economy, Dr Jorge Wehbe, also attend that meeting.

In turn, bishops who are members of the Social Pastoral Team left Government House without making declarations but they released a statement in which they point out that they did not participate in the discussions since these involved issues outside their mission, but that they tried to "facilitate the dialogue" and assert that they had underscored the importance of wages, which characterize the equity of a socio-economic system.

Once the meeting was over the members of the socio-economic cabinet proceeded to the presidential office where they held a lengthy meeting with Gen Reynaldo Benito Bignone.

Attending the meeting which got under way at 1600 hours in the Emblem Room of the Ministry of Interior were the leaders of the Argentine Industrial Union, engineer Roberto Favelevic; Guillermo Montagna; engineers Franco Esperanza and Luis Blaquier; and Arnaldo Etchar and Francisco Blas.

Representing the Episcopal Social Pastoral Team were Bishops Domingo Castagna, Rodolfo Bufano, Justo Iaguna, and Carlos Galan.

Representing the government were the minister of interior, Gen Llamil Reston; the minister of economy, Dr Jorge Wehbe; the minister of public works and services, engineer Conrado Bauer; the ministers of labor and social action, Dr Hector Villaveiran and Adolfo Navajas Artaza, respectively; and the secretary of planning, Brig Jose Miret.

Favelevic's Comments

At the conclusion of the meeting the head of the UIA made statements in the press room of Government House. Engineer Roberto Favelevic, after noting that the group would meet the following day with the ministers of labor and social action, indicated that they had requested that the minister of economy also take part in that meeting.

Industrial Wages

Favelevic also said that the UIA has reported, backed by specific evidence, that the industrial wages of the past few months have increased substantially.

"This does not mean that we are not aware that there can be families whose earnings are insufficient; however, this does not happen in the industrial sector but perhaps in other sectors of the economy."

Favelevic also said that the largest industrial firms have been subject to price control for many months now and therefore any excessive pricing which may be found in this respect does not involve leading enterprises which are those that best fulfill both their budgetary and tax obligations and that the UIA is prepared to analyze the problem with the government and to make all necessary suggestions flowing from its experience.

"We hope that the decisions that the government can adopt," he said further on, "will be the most satisfactory and that they can resolve the problem of the needy without causing additional inflation and without harming industrial firms, which are those that create jobs."

When asked what, for the UIA, would be the minimum wage Favelevic answered that he lacked this information and that the studies of the group that he heads are made on the basis of the increase in the industrial wage which was about 25 percent in the past 12 months.

Topics for Tomorrow

Engineer Roberto Favelevic announced that tomorrow's meeting with the ministers of labor and social action in which the minister of economy will participate will deal with harmonizing measures which the ministers might propose and which will be evaluated today at the meeting of the national cabinet.

Regarding tomorrow evening's meeting with the trade union leaders, Favelevic answered that "we have not been invited to that deliberation" and he added that the UIA's contribution consisted of work, opinion, ideas, and experience.

"If they wish us to attend we shall do so," Favelevic stressed.

Other Measures

The head of the UIA refused to make, in response to a question put to him, an analysis of any complementary measure for granting a wage increase. Similarly, he felt that it was not prudent to anticipate anything until the government made a decision on that score.

Price Increases

Such prudence, Gilberto Montagna [as published] said, is not linked to the issue of price freezes, provided for by an amendment of resolution No 779, which called for an automatic 8 percent increase. Since 15 September 1982 that increase has been suspended and only those really justified will be authorized.

On being told that price increases have been occurring following the said known measure, Montagna said that such an interpretation was in error since businesses continue to be regulated and that he could not speak of prices which did not apply to the industrial sector. Prices falling outside the industrial schedule, he noted, relate to fresh produce in general or other products which have nothing to do with industrial production.

Unrepresented Sectors

Montagna explained that the UIA does not shun responsibilities but that it represents only 13.5 percent of employed labor and that other sectors such as trade, finance, and agriculture are not involved though the representatives of these, too, should participate at such meetings together with spokesmen from the political parties.

Gilberto Montagna then recalled that 4 months ago the UIA had proposed a series of measures for the country's reactivation, and that if they had been adopted the existing situation would be different.

Favelevic [as published] indicated finally that it was the first time that the UIA had met with the socio-economic cabinet and he felt that on Thursday decisions would be made in the matter.

With the President

Once the meeting with the businessmen was concluded, the members of the socio-economic team and the minister of interior participated in another meeting with the Argentine president.

While the official report issued at the conclusion of these deliberations indicated that "issues of an economic and social nature were discussed," it would be learned that at the meeting which lasted 2 hours the ministers

analyzed with General Bignone the details of the measures to be adopted and which the national cabinet would discuss today when it holds its Wednesday plenary sessions.

Bishops' Document

Once the meeting was over, the members of the Episcopal Social Pastoral Team left without issuing a statement, but they sent to the press room of Government House a "declaration" which read as follows:

"The Episcopal Social Pastoral Team reiterates once more to public opinion the meaning of its presence at the meeting held this afternoon (that is, yesterday) with the members of the government's socio-economic cabinet and the executives of the Argentine Industrial Union.

"The bishops, who did not participate in the discussions because they [the bishops] are naturally outside the search for technical means, nevertheless tried through their presence to facilitate the dialogue, as they had been requested.

"It is appropriate to note once more that the bishops did not participate as if they represented an additional sector of the community but rather lent their determined support to the dialogue directed to find solutions for the problems of our more underprivileged brothers in the country.

"At the start of the meeting the Social Pastoral Team, after noting the importance of a dialogue, realized openly and in an inquiring spirit, recalled the thoughts expressed by His Holiness John Paul II in his encyclical 'Laborem Exercens' dealing with work as the key to social issues as well as its priority over any other feature of the socio-economic order.

"The importance of wages was also stressed, for they characterize the equity of a socio-economic system whose functioning deserves, in the last analysis, to be evaluated according to the manner of remunerating human labor ('Laborem Exercens' No 19)."

Official Communique

Yesterday at 2140 hours the Ministry of Interior released an official communique on the meeting held in the evening in its office. Its text read as follows:

"The announced meeting of the socio-economic cabinet, the Episcopal Social Pastoral Committee, and executives of the UIA was held today.

"During the meeting the issues presented on that occasion by the economic group to the Episcopal Social Pastoral Team were analyzed. The said officials pointed out that industrial wages in the past few months have increased substantially without failing to recognize that there could still be families with insufficient earnings but that these belonged to other economic sectors.

It was also noted that the largest industrial firms have been subject to price controls for many months now and therefore cannot be blamed for excessive pricing that can occur at other levels of marketing. It was agreed to continue to analyze and study the measures that may be made known at the meeting to be held next Thursday, 25 August, at 1600 hours, with the participation of the trade union federations."

Criticism of Gonzalez del Solar

The Church's Social Pastoral Team criticized statements by the president of the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic [BCRA], Julio Gonzalez del Solar, and pronounced itself "absolutely" opposed to the idea that to eliminate inflation "it is necessary to unfortunately ignore the underprivileged sectors."

A member of the Church's Social Pastoral Team, Monsignor Domingo Castagna, told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS [ARGENTINE NEWS AGENCY] that the members of that committee "cannot in any way be in agreement with such concepts because they negate the reason for our management which is to alleviate the situation of those who suffer most economically, the underprivileged."

Gonzalez del Solar asserted that "social inequity will not be eliminated if the underprivileged are not subsidized," adding that he believed that "we must opt for one thing or the other."

"That is indeed so and he should mention it at a meeting with technicians as a personal concern.... Furthermore, we do not believe that the situation is just like that," Castagna replied to the comments of the president of the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic.

"We cannot subordinate the people's hunger to checking inflation but must respond to moral issues," Monsignor Domingo Castagna specified.

The prelate voiced a plea "especially to our leaders that they alleviate the situation of the most underprivileged people.

"The sacrifice of the working class is already a fact; its members are making constant sacrifices," he added.

The bishop suggested that "the government's effort and that of businessmen should be very exemplary right now: Solutions must be sought even though some economic plans may have to be postponed.

"There is something very important: It is essential to solve grave emergency problems which are specifically hunger and the totally inadequate wages of our working class," he explained.

Asked whether some measures benefiting the workers would not aggravate inflation, the prelate answered:

"I believe that this is a challenge for our technicians.

"I think that from a technical viewpoint we cannot work as if we were computers," he added.

"We have a very serious problem considering that there are people who suffer tremendously and we have to solve that problem immediately. Let us then find a place for economic measures and let our entire technology be placed at the service of that need. That is what is essential," Castagna concluded.

2662

CSO: 3348/631

PERONIST LUDER-BITTEL TEAM GAINING STRENGTH

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Aug 83 p 4

[Text] NA--The former minister of economy, Antonio Cafiero, agreed last night to be a candidate for the governorship of Buenos Aires Province, thus firming the prospect of a definitive agreement on the Italo Luder-Deolindo Bittel slate for the presidency and vice presidency of Argentina, respectively.

In this manner the internal struggle of the Peronist Party now focuses on the identity of the Buenos Aires candidates given that, in the light of Cafiero's decision, the leader Avellaneda Jerminio Iglesias subsequently ratified his own candidacy.

Both the former minister of economy and Iglesias said that they counted on the support of over 400 congressmen, a number that is incompatible with the real total of members of that party organization in the district, which is 665.

Cafiero's decision was announced during an event held at the Hotel Colon in Buenos Aires.

Cafiero thus mentioned a "renunciation" of his presidential aspirations as he was requested to do last week by 139 "independent" congressmen.

The former minister's attitude, while it does not eliminate internal strife, marks the culmination of the negotiations that were held practically from the start of the party reorganization process and that were stepped up last week when successive "summit" meetings failed to lead to an agreement that would have included the candidates for the governorship and the presidency.

The offer of the gubernatorial candidacy was made formally to Cafiero by the elector congressman for San Isidro, Jorge d'Onofrio.

From last Thursday until yesterday morning, elected congressmen on one hand and top-level political and trade union leaders on the other held extensive meetings slated to secure Cafiero's "renunciation" of the presidential candidacy and his acceptance of the candidacy for the governorship.

Until yesterday morning, the former minister of economy continued to hold firm in the struggle for the presidential nomination, but he admitted for the first time the possibility of accepting the candidacy for the governorship if and when he could count on the genuine support of the congressmen who back him in the provincial congress and at the same time be allowed to participate in the district's party executive.

Position of Herminio Iglesias

At a press conference held in the offices of the reorganizing committee of the Justicialist Party of Buenos Aires Province, the candidate for governor for that political party, Herminio Iglesias, received the support of the 62 organizations in the presence of trade unionists Biego Ibanez and Rodolfo Ponce. Previously, Norberto Imbellone exhibited the events book and reported in detail on the specific adhesions to the Iglesias-Amerisse slate for the provincial congress to be held tomorrow, Thursday, at 1000 hours in the multi-sports complex of La Plata's Gymnastics and Fencing Club. According to Imbellone the support of 402 congressmen out of a total of 667 had been secure last night and 43 cables were collected to be presented when the congressmen signed to support the candidacy. On the occasion, Herminio Iglesias, Carmelo Amerisse, Diego Ibanez, and Rodolfo Ponce spoke. Herminio Iglesias, in answer to a question on those congressmen who supported Cafiero's candidacy, noted: "I did not know that there were 800 congressmen; it is an error which economists are wont to commit." Iglesias estimated that the sector's position in the forthcoming congress "was unavoidable" and that there would be a confrontation rather than an encounter among Peronists. On his part, Diego Ibanez asserted that the 62 organizations did not support his friend but rather the triumph of the majority in Buenos Aires Province and that at the appropriate time Lorenzo Miguel would publicly disclose that support. The backing of Dr Robledo and of Manuel Anchorona, who will hold the position of first candidate for the seat of senator for Buenos Aires Province, was also announced.

Luder Approves the Possible Slate

The leader Italo Luder accepted the possibility of heading the presidential slate of the Peronist Party, together with that party's vice presidential candidate, Deolindo Bittel, even though he explained that the final decision depends on the party's national congress.

Luder also indicated that during the meetings held this week in the Lola Membrives Theater, "trends which became evident at the primary elections held in the various provinces were taken into account.

"Our talks," he explained, "have as their goal to find a constructive solution and to try to eliminate the hitches that may arise along the way."

Before the plenary meeting of the national congress, he added, "we wish to obviate all the hitches and complete our reorganization, which has left us a very positive balance starting with the massive participation of the membership."

Before the plenary meeting of the national congress, he added, "we wish to obviate all the hitches and complete our reorganization, which has left us a very positive balance starting with the massive participation of the membership."

In statements made to Radio America, the former provisional president warned that "the presidential slate can be elected only by the party congress, the sole organization authorized to do so according to our organic charter."

Additionally, Italo Luder specified that the talks held yesterday at the Lola Membrives Theater of Buenos Aires went "much beyond the makeup of the presidential slate, considering that issues were discussed such as the party platform and the formation of national executive organs, among them the national council and the executive board."

2662

CSO: 3348/631

AIR FORCE SUPPORTS LABOR UNION DEMANDS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] The high command of the Argentine Air Force considers that it is necessary to comply with "the demands presented by the trade union federations, a response that would guarantee the maintenance of social peace," according to the official report made at the conclusion of the meeting held yesterday in the Condor Building under the chairmanship of the commander in chief of that service, Brig Gen Augusto Jorge Hughes.

It was indicated that this would insure that "the households of those with few means would have enough to acquire essentials."

During the same meeting the evolution of the country's institutionalization process was evaluated and "the exemplary development of party life was noted with satisfaction."

Official Communique

The official communique read as follows:

"Chaired by the commander in chief of the Air Force, Brig Gen Augusto Jorge Hughes, a meeting was held today (yesterday) in the Condor Building attended by all brigadiers with commands in the country.

"The deliberations began at 0900 hours and after a short recess they resumed until late in the afternoon.

"During that meeting the national socio-economic situation was analyzed, there being agreement that it is necessary to support the demands presented by the trade union federations, a response that would guarantee the maintenance of social peace, thereby insuring that the households of those with few means would have enough to acquire essentials.

"The brigadiers subsequently evaluated the evolution of the institutionalization process, and the exemplary development of party life was noted with satisfaction.

"Brig Etsel Oscar Martinez Viademonte, in his capacity as head of the air component of emergency command of the northeastern zone headquartered in Rosario, talked of the situation in the flooded province and described the activities of the Air Force in support of the affected inhabitants, exhorting the commander in chief in this respect to undertake the maximum effort to help the population of the said provinces.

"Brigadier general Hughes, after reporting on the existing political situation, gave directives that personnel in units be instructed to participate in supervising the elections of 30 October 1983 so as to insure their honest and efficient execution."

2662

CSO: 3348/631

UDP PUBLIC MEETINGS LAY GROUNDWORK FOR CITY ELECTIONS

10 August Meeting

Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY: Gearing up to the torrid campaign that is expected to preview the upcoming Belize City Council Elections in

December, the United Democratic Party (UDP) held its second public meeting in three weeks.

The UDP meeting was held on Wednesday night at the corner of Victoria Street and New Road and was chaired by Party Chairman Dean Lindo. Speakers included Party Leader Manuel Esquivel, Leader of the Opposition Curl Thompson, Senator Elodio Aragon of Orange Walk, and prospective City Council candidate Gustavo Bautista, Frank Lizama and Ramon Vasquez, who delivered the main address.

Charge of Police Harassment

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 14 Aug 83 pp 1, 7

[Text]

THE UDP PARTY LEADER, Senator Manuel Esquivel, has written a letter to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Lindberg Rogers, charging that the Police have been creating unnecessary problems in allowing the UDP to hold public meetings in Belize City.

The letter blames the government for the Police behaviour and threatens that unless the government conducts itself in a more responsible way, the UDP would have to review its decision to conduct joint Tenth of September celebrations with the People's United Party this year.

Senator Esquivel was referring to what appears to be Police provocation and harassment over the UDP's election strategy to launch an early and concentrated campaign for the December City Council election. City Police are now requiring the party to post an unprecedented bond for \$2,000 every time it applies for permission to hold a meeting.

At the last meeting, held on Wednesday night, August 10 Police held up the proceedings on grounds that even though the UDP had complied with the bond requirement and had received written permission to hold the meeting, it did not have permission to use loudspeakers.

A party spokesman further pointed out two cases which he called provocation. Little more than a month ago a vehicle full of armed policemen followed a UDP loudspeaker car for hours around the city, despite the fact that the Party had secured written permission to make its announcements by loudspeaker car. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Curl Thompson and the Party Leader Mr. Manuel Esquivel were riding in the car at the time. Secondly it took Belize Police six days to process an application by the UDP to hold a public meeting. The application was made on Wednesday, August 3rd., but formal permission was not given until August 9, after the Police had exacted a \$2,000 bond.

Meanwhile, substantial doubts have been raised over whether the Police have the legal right to demand a bond from parties desiring to hold public meetings. After the troubles of 1981 arising from the Heads of Agreement, Government passed new laws requiring (at police discretion) a bond of up to \$1,000 from persons desiring to organize a public procession. This law, however, states nothing about a bond for public meetings.

It is now thought likely that the UDP will seek a court interpretation to clarify the legal position with respect to public meetings and the use of loudspeakers, but such a procedure could take weeks, even months.

A sense of public outrage has been building up as more and more citizens learn the facts about what the Police are doing. It seems clear from the evidence that the Police are being manipulated to frustrate the efforts of the UDP to get their City Council campaign on the road.

The People's United Party has been continuously in the seat of government ever since Self-Government in 1964, with the same leadership and the same set of Ministers operating the same portfolios. This has led to a formidable entrenchment which permeates every aspect of Belize life and which appears to be straining the limits of democratic franchise to undo.

"If this keeps up for another year or two," an opposition citizen told the REPORTER, "Belize can forget about democratic rule. We will be in the same shoes as Cuba and Nicaragua."

PUP Problem Finding Candidates

Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

THE PUP is having trouble finding candidates for the December City Council elections. There are three problems facing them.

The first is that the whole City is set against the maladministration of the Council. Voters complain that it can't even hold a meeting because there is no quorum. City Fathers refuse to attend.

Secondly, there is the

Right-Left split. Both sides want a majority of candidates and their leader can do nothing to reconcile the warring factions.

Finally, sensing a massive defeat at the polls, potential candidates do not wish to lose.

The mood of the City, as in the country is that they will elect the UDP to office.

CSO: 3298/881

PAPER SCORES PRICE FOR ONE-MAN, DICTATORIAL RULE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 p 2

[Anonymous column: "Viewpoint"]

[Text]

FOR those who keep believing it is alright to be complacent and acquiescent to Mr. Price's dictatorship and communist games, it is now high time to realise, if he is not checked, that one day soon he will command so much power that we will not be able to fight for our rights and freedom.

The jostle between the left and right in the City Council for the election of Mayor was arbitrarily - in truly dictatorial manner - settled by the P.M. by his selection of Mr. Alvan Fuller. There was no election. As would be expected, since then the City Council has not been able to meet and

attend to the problems and services of the council officially, because the Mayor has failed to get a quorum of City Fathers. The P.M., Mayor, and City Fathers have been conveniently mum about this very sad state of affairs. Very disappointingly though, nothing has been said nor done to even question this shocking state of affairs.

For some time now he has run the affairs of government strictly on his direction and instruction. The P.M. simply has ruled that all matters for finance and other approval must be channelled through the Ministry of Finance (his ministry).

Even travels and all expenditure by the Ministers themselves! The Ministers must know by now that they have become totally powerless. The existence of a National Budget and a Cabinet has become a sad joke in very bad taste. What kind of jelly fish ministers do we have in government?

Last week the P.M. scored again and appointed a Deputy Financial Secretary, very much to the disgust of the entire Civil Service.

The speculation now is that Mr. Marshalleck, already Ambassador to the U.S., and Acting Governor General, might be rubber-stamped to replace the "not-too-cooperative" Dr. Minita Gordon as Governor General.

All who have eyes to see must now see while there is still hope and opportunity for a change. Elections are only a few months away. But first recover the Elections and Boundaries Commission from hand-picked PUPs or NADA!

CSO: 3298/881

CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF 7-UP DISCLOSES POLITICAL ROLE OF BUSINESS

Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] This newspaper, together with the AMANDALA, has called on readers and sympathizers to boycott Mr Buster Chavannes' 7-UP. It is a move which has caused a degree of consternation in certain circles; and, it is charged, we now face the prospect of losing the support of the business community for ourselves and for the Party with which we identify, the UDP.

We would point out, however, that the business community is not monolithic. And while there are individual businessmen who have steadfastly supported us over the years, the fact is that the majority of the business community has not. Most of the businessmen we know have preferred a collusion with the PUP, content to dance to Mr Price's tune in return for the favours and concessions which keep the profits coming in. The example of the PUP newspapers, which despite a very marginal circulation are always overflowing with advertisements, nicely illustrates our point. For the most part, those advertisements represent merely one dimension of the sweetheart deal that exists between government and the businessmen. No advertiser seriously expects that an ad in the TRIBUNE, for instance, will have any impact on the consuming public. But it is a part of the price which the businessman pays for that all important intangible--the goodwill of the PUP government.

Likewise, when these same businessmen bother to give a dollar to the UDP, they match it with a hundred dollars to the PUP. The UDP dollar is for them merely a cheap way of hedging their bets, of buying some insurance against the possibility of a UDP victory.

That kind of 'support' we can do without. And we feel that politically we lose nothing by our principled position of solidarity with the AMANDALA and its editor.

But our critics have a second charge. For, it is said, our boycott is intrinsically wrong, since by it we are seeking to punish Mr Chavannes for a good faith action which he took in defence of a lifelong friend.

This etiology of Mr Chavannes' testimony is, in our view, completely wrong-headed. Indeed, we believe that precisely the opposite is true; that Mr Chavannes did what he did out of self-interest; that his action is symptomatic of the willingness of most members of the business community to compromise conscience in return for manificence from the PUP.

What we all need to remember is that insofar as we are able to claim that democracy is still alive in Belize, we can do so in large measure because of the existence of a vigorous, crusading, free press. When a businessman, or any man, contributes to the fettering of the press and so to the erosion of a society's selective freedom, that society must act immediately then, (including the truly 'righeous' businessmen) will have little difficulty in understanding why we say again: Boycott 7-UP.

CSO: 3298/881

GOVERNMENT CHARGED WITH HIDING TRUTH IN TV ISSUE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

DURING the debate about television broadcasting members of the government sat tight on the most important aspect of the local TV Bill. They had a duty to disclose the whole truth.

By accepting money under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, the Belize government accepted the conditions stipulated in the CBI agreement. On Page 5, section 2 (5) is to be found the following stipulation: "if a government-owned entity in such a country engages in the broadcast of a copyrighted material, including films or television material, belongs to United States copyrighted owners with their express consent," it will suffer penalties.

Experience with this government teaches Belizeans how to interpret them.

They will use the Radio and TV to explain that they do not have funds to pay for American TV broadcasts and, as a result, they will have to provide their own programmes!

Nobody needs to guess what that will mean. It will be a replay of the old, sad Radio Belize story. It will be a rehash of old news, inferior programmes and, above all, the all too familiar tired party political junk. The people will be treated all over again to the dictatorial manipulation and control of the TV station that they have been experiencing for the

past years.

It will not matter to government that the constitution guarantees freedom of speech because the suppression of this freedom has no meaning to them. That the people will not see the Cubbies, Charlie's Angels or the very educational programmes where free debate on the burning and important issues of State are discussed, will not bother them.

Then too, it is likely that the leftist faction of the party will turn to communist programmes.

All this amounts to a very bad bargain for the people of Belize. Once again they have been let down by those who have been paid to serve them.

REPORTS PROVIDE DETAILS ON ECONOMY, AGRICULTURE

Bank's Quarterly Review

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 14 Aug 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

WHILE the country of Belize is grappling with her economic woes and winning some ground (foreign reserves are up to \$38.3 million compared to \$24.20 million a year ago; bank liquidity has improved, interest rates are down and the trade gap has narrowed) the Government of Belize is facing sudden death with steeply falling revenues and severe domestic imbalances.

The Quarterly Review of the Belize Central Bank for the period ending the fiscal year (March 1983) shows Central Government borrowing up by 18 per-cent!

Because of a shrinking in revenue earnings and a dramatic fall-off in the Chetumal trade, Government has been forced to borrow heavily both from the Central Bank and from the pool of domestic savings lodged with local banks to the tune of a record \$59.8 million (at 11.18 per-cent per annum).

"Shortfalls in revenue collections" the report points out, "particularly Customs and Excise duties, were linked to the Government's need for increased financial support. During the first nine months of the 1982/83 fiscal year, revenue collections totalled \$47.5 million or less than 50 per-cent of the budgeted amount. Of the \$76.3 million budgeted for Customs

and tax receipts, only \$40.8 million had been collected by November, 1982".

Behind the cautious language, the Belize Central Bank's report is remarkable for what it doesn't say. It pointedly omitted any reference to a budget deficit for fiscal 1982/83, even though the figures must have been available, and gave information only up to November, 1982. The Prime Minister in his budget speech earlier this year covered the subject in one line. At the budget session in February he reported that the "budget for the fiscal year just ended has been narrowly balanced." - a statement which in the light of later evidence, turns out to be untrue.

To get an idea of the sudden disaster facing the government it is necessary to review the revenue performance as listed in five pre-

vicious quarterly reviews to show the following comparison:

REVENUE: FISCAL YEAR 1981/82

1st. Qtr.
April to June 1981=\$15,946,000
2nd. Qtr.
July to September = 17,892,000
3rd. Qtr.
Oct. to December = 20,702,000
4th. Qtr.
Jan. to March 1982= 27,917,000
FISCAL YEAR \$82,457,000

REVENUE: FISCAL YEAR 1982/83

1st. Qtr.
April to June 1982=\$19,112,000
2nd. Qtr.
July to September = 23,580,000
October to Nov. = 4,808,000
November to December
figures not given-not given
4th. Qtr.
Jan. to March, 1983 not given

The report gives no revenue figures for the month of December 1982 or for the last fiscal quarter ending March 31, 1983, but it does state that during the last quarter of the fiscal year (January to March, 1983) the Chetumal trade slid from its high of \$28 million the previous year to \$4.5 million this year.

There is moreover evidence that the frightening revenue picture is sending the high and mighty Belmopan ministry around the bend. The Ministry of Finance has been further strengthened by bringing Mr. Telford Vernon, a former Commissioner of Income Tax, over from the Development Finance Corporation, while Mr. Edne Cain has been promoted Belize's Ambassador to Washington to make way for Mr. Swift, a former Accountant General, who is to replace him.

The desperate hunt for more revenue dollars is being pursued with vigour, and this includes not only a drive to learn about those who have savings accounts in the United States, but a move also to re-classify certain imports so that they pay the higher rate of duty and to re-assess certain classifications of land so that they pay the higher land tax.

It's boom or bust for Belmopan. But despite the strenuous effort, indications are that it has come too late. The Belize goose, it appears, has laid the last of her golden eggs.

Agriculture in 1982

Belize City DISWEEK in English 12 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

The Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for 1982 shows that local producers of rice, corn, beans, beef and pork did not fare off too well compared to the previous years. Poultry producers were able to sell more, but at a lower price, although this was offset by lower input costs.

By far the worst hit were the corn farmers of Cayo and Toledo. In the 1981/82 season the Marketing Board purchased 5.5 million pounds of corn at a maximum price of 24¢ per lb. In 1982/83, it only purchased 600,000 lbs., and that at a maximum price of 18¢ per lb.

The report explains that "faced with the twin constraints of world prices and cash flow, the Marketing Board offered lower prices for corn than in recent years." It also failed to purchase large amounts of corn that it had contracted to buy. Still, corn production did not decrease. The report shows that for both 1981 and 1982, 47 million pounds of corn were produced. Many farmers were stuck with their corn, unable to find a market.

Rice did not fare so badly. In 1981/82, the Board purchased 6.3 million pounds of paddy, and 4.1 million in 1982/82, but at the same maximum price of 26¢ per lb. The report states, however, that "steep price penalties were incurred for poor quality rice and average prices received were much lower than the statutory maximum." The production of rice, however, was only 17.8 million pounds of paddy,

down 6.1 million from 1981. This was largely due to a 37% cut in production by Big Falls Ranch of Belize District.

Beans production remained fairly stable, increasing from 3.8 million pounds in 1981 to 4 million in 1982. The guaranteed price paid by the Marketing Board fell by 10¢, from \$1.00 to .90, and the Board purchased 500,000 lbs. in 1982 compared to 600,000 in 1981.

Beef production also declined, from 2.2 to 1.9 million pounds, and whereas 148,000 pounds were exported in 1981, there were no exports in 1982. As the report indicates, during 1982 the Belize Beef Corporation was divided into two enterprises, the ranch and the abattoir, the latter being renamed Belize Meats Ltd., and the municipal slaughterhouse in Belize City was closed down. Farmgate prices fell drastically, in some cases as low as 50¢ per lb. live weight. The Department is trying to encourage livestock farmers to shift to dairy farming.

The number of pigs slaughtered rose from 5242 in 1981 to 5733 in 1982, but this is still much less than the 7100 recorded slaughtered for 1978. The report warns, however, that perhaps as much as 60% of pigs are slaughtered on farms and as such go unrecorded.

Poultry production increased from 29,500 lbs. per week in 1981 to 34,400 in 1982, while lower feed costs brought about by the corn surplus resulted in lower prices for both the farmer and the consumer.

Population, Production Figures

Belize City DISWEEK in English 12 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

According to a recent publication by the Government Information Service in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the Central Planning Unit (Belize in Figures 1983), there were 152,000 people living in Belize in 1982, compared to 145,400 in 1980. But whereas the Gross Domestic Product per capita was \$2031.00 in 1980, it was down to \$1951.00 in 1982.

The major domestic export earnings during the period showed a sharp drop, from \$160.4 million in 1980 to \$118.3 million in 1982. Predictably, sugar products account for much of these losses, going down from \$99.7 million to \$67.5 million. Bananas fell from 7 million to 4.2 million, and garments took a steep tumble from 28.8 million to 12.7 million.

But the value of citrus exports rose from \$12.7 million in 1980 to \$14.1 million in 1982, fish products rose from \$8.1 million to \$12.6 million, and honey entered the major league by leaping from half a million to \$3.4 million.

Agricultural production of locally consumed items showed minor changes for rice (from 19.0 to 17.5 million lbs. of paddy), RK Beans (from 3.0 to 3.9 million lbs.), and beef (from 2.3 to 2.0 million lbs.)

The one crop that showed major movement was corn jumping from 41 to 47 million lbs. — alas, farmers were unable to find profitable markets for their product.

On the other hand, beer manufacturing rose from 689,000 gallons to 818,000, showing once more that at least we take our drinking seriously.

There were many more passengers coming and going in 1982 compared to 1980 (128,800 in '80, compared to 260,200 in '82) and the number of hotels rose from 121 to 141. The number of telephone subscribers almost doubled in the two years, from 3,900 to 6,200; but electricity consumers only increased from 18,100 to 18,800, failing to keep pace with the increasing demands.

On the social side, there is recorded a dramatic improvement in the critical health statistic, infant mortality rate, which records the number of infants which die within one year for each 1,000 live births. In 1979 it was 51.2; in 1982 it was 21.3.

The birth rate went down from 40.0 per 1,000 to 38.6; this probably has nothing to do with the fact that the number of marriages went down from 907 in 1980 to 844 in 1982.

CSO: 3298/882

UDP MANIFESTO: GIVE MUNICIPAL BODIES MORE INDEPENDENCE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 p 7

[From paid advertisement headed THE UDP BULLETIN Vol 1, No 8, 16 Jul 83, and noting that "views expressed therein are not necessarily those of THE BEACON"]

[Text]

IN each issue of ~~the~~ BULLETIN we will take one topic from our Manifesto and expand on it so that readers might have a clear knowledge and understanding of our policies.

This week we will look at:

"MUNICIPAL BODIES More Independence: To advance the cause of free democratic development the UDP government will revise the laws governing municipal bodies with the intention of making municipal bodies more independent financially and granting them more say in the running of their own affairs."

It is clear to us in the UDP that so long as the Central Government has near absolute control over the purse strings and absolute control over the ability of municipal bodies to make laws for the proper running of the

cities and towns under their responsibility, our cities and towns will continue to suffer. Municipal boards are responsible for the good governing of cities and towns, yet they have no authority to make regulations nor do they have authority to enforce existing regulations. They are responsible for maintenance of streets, collection of garbage, maintaining a labour force, but they have no ability to tax. The Minister must approve of everything the boards do, and in some cases the minister or his agencies dictate to the boards what they must do. The present laws fail to recognise the higher authority of the people, who are after all the ones that elect City Council, or Town Board members. It is clearly

neo-colonialistic for Central Government to overstep the will of the people by dictating to the elected representatives of the people in their cities and towns. The UDP intends to change all that. In a free and democratic society, the people's representatives must have the legal authority to properly serve the people. Municipal bodies must be given more right to enact municipal laws as well as the authority to enforce those laws. Municipal bodies must have the authority to make their own budgets free of government veto, as well as the authority to raise funds to meet their budgets without having to seek government's approval. Since these bodies are put there by the people, it is the people, not Belmopan, who gave the authority to ve-

to the activities of City Councils and Town Boards, and they have a chance to exercise that veto every three years. Political independence is not merely a licence for Belmopan to run its own affairs. It must also extend to our cities and towns, and indeed, even to the village level. Only when people at every level can participate in the running of their own affairs will we be truly independent. Until then, what we have is neo-colonialism, with Belmopan as our new masters. As we see it, the role of Central Government is to run the affairs of the nation, but the affairs of towns and villages which pertain to themselves only, as opposed to the nation as a whole, should be run by the elected representatives of people at these levels.

BRIEFS

THEFT OF ELECTRICITY--Suspicion by officials of the Belize Electricity Board that the board's Orange Walk operations have been losing tens of thousands of dollars through stealing of electricity by big businessmen, has reportedly been confirmed. According to information reaching this newspaper, the B.E.B. dispatched a team of experts to look into the matter and it has been revealed that the chief perpetrator of the "power steal" is a big, big power hungry enterprise. While the matter has become a subject for heated debate among citizens of Orange Walk Town, the results of the board's investigations still remain a company secret. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 13 Aug 83 pp 1, 11]

CSO: 3298/883

IDEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, ROLE OF SINGLE COMMAND REVIEWED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 14 Jul, 11 Aug, 18 Aug 83

[Article by Lt Col Idilio Isaac Rodriguez, doctoral candidate in historical science: "Essence, Importance of Single Command in the FAR"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[14 Jul 83 pp 28-29]

[Text] The Programmatic Platform of the PPC [Communist Party of Cuba] states: "The PCC is the highest leading force of society and the Cuban state."¹

The FAR is part of the state; the party also acts as its "highest leading force." Therefore, the basis of the military structure in the country is its leadership by the PCC.

In directing the life and activity of the FAR, the PCC shows constant concern for the steady increase of its combative power and its combat and mobilizational readiness. Therefore, it pays special attention to everything related to troop leadership.

Without any doubt, one of the most important aspects of the Cuban military structure and the FAR is related to troop leadership and military organization as a whole.

Troop leadership is a very difficult and complex problem. The quality and results of combat and political training, the political, moral and disciplinary level of the personnel, the successful fulfillment of the assigned tasks and missions, the combat and mobilizational readiness of the units and the success of combat actions depend directly on how it is organized, the method on which it is based and how this is exercised.

The quality of the troop leadership that the chiefs, officers and other FAR cadres exercise is a decisive factor for combat readiness.

The basic organizational principle of the Cuban military structure and the FAR as its backbone and most complete creation is the /single command/. It is the main method, basic system and primary form of troop leadership in the FAR.

Single command is a /principle/ when focusing on it as the basis, guide and orientation of the activity of the chiefs in the leadership of the military organization. It expresses stable, objective and continual organizational links. It is a /method/ when it is viewed as a stable sequential procedure in troop leadership. It is a /form/ when it is conceived within the organizational aspect and a /system/ when it is viewed as part of the entire military structure like method and form.

This multilateral focus on the single command, corresponding to its objective reality without one focus excluding or contradicting another, can be found in documents, military literature and regulations.

The single command in the FAR is the basic organizational principle of the Cuban military structure and the FAR, the method, system and form of centralized troop leadership. Through it the chiefs are at the head of the military collectives. They have been given unipersonal authority over the centralization of the technical-military, administrative and political leadership functions with the corresponding rights of supervision and direction of subordinates.

They answer personally to the PCC and the Cuban Government for: the permanent combat and mobilizational readiness of the units under their command; combat and political training; the educational, political, moral and disciplinary level of the personnel; the condition of the armaments, combat equipment and transportation; the material and medical supplies; the living conditions of the personnel; and the fulfillment of the combat missions.²

V. I. Lenin indicated that the single command is a leadership system through which strict and unconditional unity of will is achieved, subordinating hundreds, thousands and tens of thousands of people to the will of one single person: the leader, the chief. He stated that it is the system that best insures the optimal use of the capacities of the people as well as true verification of the work. It increases the personal responsibility of the leader as well as of the executors and insures a flexible and operational leadership.³

Lenin conceded great importance to collective leadership as the supreme principle of the party. Therefore, he drew up the bases for the activities of the collective leadership organs. At the same time, he pointed out the important role of the unipersonal command in the practical execution of the decisions of the party and the government.

In his work "All to the fight against Denikin," he wrote: "...entrusting the practical leadership of the institution, the enterprise, the matter or the task involved to one single comrade who is known for his firmness, energy, courage and capacity to handle concrete matters and who enjoys the greatest confidence."⁴

The need for single command in the FAR is supported by the basis of every army and its specific tasks and missions which demand operativeness, strict centralization, flexibility and personal responsibility.

In a circular to the chiefs and officers of the Liberating Army, Jose Marti, National Hero of Cuba, expressed some ideas about the need for single command.

He wrote: "The people of Cuba are prepared to win the war they have again embarked on for their freedom but perhaps their sacrifice will be futile or will unnecessarily cost too much if the entire Liberating Army does not follow the same momentum at the same time, if the same thing is not done at the same time everywhere, if the war is not advanced with an energetic and clear philosophy.... We issue these general instructions in order to achieve this /unity and energy in action/ in the Cuban army without further delay...."⁵

Just as Marti spoke out for "unity and energy in action," for the best organization, discipline and centralization of command in the Liberating Army, so did other patriots in our wars of independence from the Spanish colonial yoke: Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Gen Antonio Maceo and Generalissimo Maximo Gomez. (Giving the cry "independence or death" at his sugar mill, La Demajagua, on 16 October 1868, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes proclaimed centralized command and unipersonal leadership of the insurrection and the new Mambi army.)

In the war against the Batista tyranny for the complete and real independence of Cuba, the glorious Rebel Army, under the leadership of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, was governed vertically by the principle of the single command, the main method and system of leadership and command of the guerrilla fronts and columns.

Com Ernesto (Che) Guevara wrote: "Real armies can be perfectly organized with single command and obtain respect and obedience to that command....That is why the choice of the chief of the guerrillas and the certainty that this chief will answer ideologically and personally to the top chief is very important...."⁶

Since the triumph of the revolution, the single command continued as principle of the incipient and new revolutionary military structure in the country. The consistent application of this principle was one of the decisive elements in the transformation of the Rebel Army and the National Revolutionary Militia into the present powerful FAR.

The PCC concedes great importance to the single command. The Programmatic Platform of the PCC states:

"The party emphasizes the role of the single command as one of the most important principles in the organization of the FAR."⁷

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz called the single command the "cornerstone of the military structure."⁸

Due to its sociopolitical essence, the single command in the FAR is /socialist/. It has a proletarian nature.

The single command in the FAR is socialist because it regulates and governs relations between chiefs and subordinates. These, in turn, are a reflection and expression of the socialist relations of production on which the socio-economic system of our country is based.

Due to its essence, the single command in the FAR is radically different from the single command in armies of capitalist countries. These differences are

related to class content, the objective of the single command and the procedures and methods of application.

In the armies of capitalist countries, this element is subordinate to the interests of the exploiting classes. The class makeup and relationship of any capitalist army are determined by the class makeup and relationship of the ruling government. The mass of soldiers mainly has a proletarian origin and the immense majority of the command cadres and officers come from the bourgeoisie or represent its interests.

Consequently, mutual relations between officers and soldiers, between chiefs and subordinates, in these armies cannot be more than relations of command and bourgeois subordination. The single command in these armies is used as one more system of class domination by the bourgeoisie, the exploiters, over the mass of soldiers through the command cadres and the officers.

The chiefs and officers of the capitalist armies enjoy unlimited tyrannical power. They exercise single command through coercion, repression, humiliation, the use of force, brutality, corporal punishment, moral and spiritual enslavement, artificial and deceptive lifting of the morale and state of mind through ideological treatments, political deception, psychological deformation and the influence of religious opiates and the tolerance and spread of corruption and vices.

The single command in the FAR responds to the interests of the working class, the workers, the people. The chiefs and officers of the FAR are leaders, political-military cadres, who come from the working masses, the workers, the peasants and the new intellectuals born with the revolution and serve these interests. Class identity between chiefs and subordinates lays the foundation for a new type of relationship within a military collective united ideologically, politically and morally. Common interests and objectives, summarized in the great task of defending the socialist fatherland, unite the chiefs, officers, sergeants and soldiers of the FAR.

The chief-subordinate relationship is one of camaraderie, fellowship, friendship and mutual respect and trust. The soldiers view the chief as the revolutionary leader who has the confidence of the Cuban party and state.

The basic methods which support the chiefs and command cadres of the FAR in exercising single command are persuasion, stimulus and personal example. This does not mean that timely demand and the imposition of command authority, disciplinary sanctions and punishments for crimes mentioned in the military regulations and laws have been relinquished.

This article covered different aspects of the single command in the FAR such as its concept and its importance in the light of some works by V. I. Lenin, PCC documents and speeches by leaders of the revolution as well as its socialist essence and its radical differences from single command in armies of capitalist countries.

[11 Aug 83 pp 40-41]

[Text] The characteristics of the single command stem from its socialist essence. These are common to the armies of socialist countries where this principle is practiced in the military structure.

The single command in the FAR is based, exercised and developed on a /party base/ which constitutes its basic characteristic. This means:

First, that the chiefs carry out the policy of the PCC, show boundless loyalty to the Cuban party and state, the commander in chief and the minister of the FAR, and strictly observe the Leninist style of work.

Second, that the chiefs, by exercising single command, are supported by the party--that is, the political organisms and base organizations of the party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists] in the FAR.

Third, that the chiefs are not only military leaders invested with powers and rights but also educators of their subordinates in the broadest meaning of this concept. They participate directly and personally in the political and ideological work with the personnel.

These elements of the party base of the single command are closely related to each other. It is practically impossible to apply one of them alone, independent of the others, since they all complement each other in one way or another. For each chief and each officer, carrying out the policy of the party means to be guided and governed in their activities by: the agreements, resolutions and decisions of the party congresses, the plenums of the CC [Central Committee] of the PCC and the meetings of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the CC of the PCC; and the military regulations, laws, orders, directives and indications. It means to be guided by and consistently apply the agreements and decisions of the political organisms of the FAR and the base organizations of the party in the regiments, general staffs, etc. It means using a party focus for all questions and tasks at every moment and in every situation.

In their exercise of single command, the chiefs are supported by the party, whether they are members or not, and by the political organisms not only as subordinate organisms for the political, ideological and mobilizational work with the personnel that corresponds to them as chiefs, but also as organisms of party leadership in the FAR. They are supported by the base organizations of the party and the UJC in the framework of their influences within the military structure and organization based on the level of their leadership.

To be supported by the party organizations does not mean that the chiefs direct them. The CC of the PCC directs these organizations in the FAR through the Central Political Directorate and this, in turn, through the political organisms (political sections).

The chiefs orient party activity when they make reports to the leaders, to the masses of members and to the PCC organizations about the main tasks their units face and must carry out. They can do this through meetings, individual and group interviews, assemblies, ceremonies, etc.

They can also suggest and propose party measures concerning where to direct and concentrate major efforts. They listen to and take into consideration the opinions and suggestions of the party organizations and members and help and facilitate the work of the cells, committees, leaders and members of the party.

The chiefs emphasize the work and effort of the communists in the fulfillment of the tasks and missions of their units. They are supported by the party when they participate in party activities and tasks. They must attend and actively participate in the meetings, assemblies, ceremonies and conferences of the party. They periodically give reports on different aspects of military activity and life in which the party needs to speak out in order to increase its influence.

The chiefs in the FAR are educators of their subordinates. To instruct them and educate them, they give them a scientific concept of the world, develop high-level political, moral and combat qualities in them and improve their political, moral and disciplinary level.

The merger of administrative and military functions with those of the political educator in the chiefs makes them true representatives of the party, the Cuban Government and the people.

Another main characteristic of the single command in the FAR is that /it does not conflict with socialist democracy/. This is determined by a number of factors including:

First, the chiefs at the different levels are appointed by the appropriate authorities who have received these prerogatives from the supreme organs of the people's government of the Cuban state and government.

Second, the chiefs--independent of their job and level--are under the control of the PCC, the government and their superior chiefs.

Third, the chiefs act within the rights and norms established in the laws, regulations and other legal documents; they act within the framework of socialist legality.

The single command in the FAR harmoniously combines the power of the chief and the will of the collective, the firm leadership of command and strict fulfillment of orders by subordinates, with the development of creative activity by the subordinates. Therefore, it considers the experience of the masses and has the decisive and determined support of the organizations of the PCC and the UJC.

One main characteristic of the single command in the FAR, therefore, is its /merger with certain forms of collective leadership/. The chief uses different forms and means of collective leadership in his command and leadership work such as: meetings with the officers or all the personnel; collective analyses of discipline, food, etc.; meetings, surveys and individual and collective consultations; and the work of committees, activists, etc.

Another main characteristic of the single command in the FAR is the /dialectical unity of its strengthening with the reinforcement and increase of political and party work/.

The activities of the political organisms and the organizations of the PCC and the UJC which insure party and political influence on all the personnel are combined organizationally with the exercise of single command.

The political organisms (systems) carry out the political line of the party in the FAR with the chiefs. They have common objectives, tasks, missions and responsibilities. Knowing that the combat readiness of the FAR depends basically on how command and troop leadership are exercised and strengthened and how the political organisms (systems) and organizations of the PCC and the UJC influence all the activities and life of the soldiers, the PCC pays special attention to strengthening the single command and to increasing the role and influence of political and party work. They are two aspects of a single process that are interrelated and complement each other. They represent dialectical unity converted into a daily reality within the military structure in our country.

In the closing speech of the Third Meeting of Party Secretaries in the FAR, Army Gen Raul Castro indicated that the achievements attained "...are indissolubly united to the growing role of political and ideological work, the activities of the base organizations of the party and the close unity of intention among the command organs, the political organisms and the party organizations...." He emphasized: "Practice has demonstrated and demonstrates each day, especially when the results obtained by the most distinguished units are analyzed, that this unity is the cornerstone for the success achieved. This unity--preserving the scientifically based principle of the single command, guaranteeing the vanguard role of the party and considering the specific style and methods of both--is continually translated into concrete efforts and measures that complement each other, help each other and develop the work...."

These are the main characteristics of the single command in the FAR that identify it and reveal its socialist essence.

Knowledge of these features is not only important theoretically but also practically since some of these might stand out in daily work while others are revealed more discreetly. Only by knowing them is it possible to eliminate spontaneity so that the exercise of single command is a conscious, directed process by command cadres at all levels.

[18 Aug 83 pp 41-43]

[Text] In addition to its main characteristics discussed before, the single command in the FAR has /idiosyncrasies/ that arise basically from the specific, idiosyncratic nature of our revolution and the level of practical and theoretical development of the Cuban military structure.

The first idiosyncrasy of the single command in the FAR is the /periods and stages of its establishment and development/.

There are two basic periods in its establishment and development. The first period begins with the triumph of the revolution on 1 January 1959 and ends in the second half of 1960; it coincides with the anti-imperialist and popular democratic stage of the Cuban Revolution. This is the period of popular democratic single command. The second period begins when the first ended and continues until now. This is the period of the socialist single command, closely related to the socialist stage of the revolution.

The period of the socialist single command has three main stages. These stages have been determined mainly based on the degree of development of the party base of single command.

The first stage includes the second half of 1960 until April 1961. In this stage, the party did not exist as such in the Cuban society. However, single command was exercised based on the policy of the revolutionary leadership of the country headed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and under the guidance of the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The second stage begins in April 1961 with the creation of the party and ends in the years of construction of the party in the FAR (1963-1966).

These first two are the stages of socialist single command on a /partial party base/.

The third stage covers from the time of the construction of the party in the FAR and continues until now when it has acquired a /complete party base/.

The main elements of the party base of the single command are clear: the application of party policy in the FAR and the existence of the base organizations of the party in the military units and in the different levels of command which support the chiefs.

Another relevant idiosyncrasy of the single command is that, since its beginning, the party base has had a /clear proletarian nature/ in spite of the fact that the political vanguard was created in the country and its organizations in the military units and institutions were constituted after the FAR was founded.

In the FAR, the chiefs have always had complete centralization of the political, military and administrative functions. They did not share the command and personal responsibility for the leadership of these aspects and functions with other persons. The single command in the FAR was always /complete/ single command. This represents another of its main idiosyncrasies since, in the origins of the majority of the armies of socialist countries, there was a political commissary who supervised the command and leadership of the troops in some and shared these with the chief in others. This is explained by the incorporation of officers and command cadres from the bourgeois army in these revolutionary armies, an aspect that was not characteristic of the formation of the FAR.

The single command in the FAR is established, developed and strengthened on the basis of the experiences of the struggles of the Cuban people against

Spanish colonialism and the regimes of the oppressed republic. In the Liberating Army, inconsistency in single command as the principle and method of leadership of the Mambi troops caused great harm even though its main chiefs understood its need. It was able to prevail in the War of 1895 due to the efforts of Marti, Maximo Gomez and Antonio Maceo, among others.

In the Rebel Army, it proved its effectiveness as a principle, method and system of leadership under the conditions of a guerrilla army that fought a guerrilla war. With the triumph of the revolution, the need arose for the creation of armed forces in which the single command would continue to be the principle and foundation of its construction. The FAR also inherited valuable experiences from the armies of socialist countries where this was exercised.

Therefore, one more idiosyncrasy of the single command in the FAR is that it /is established, developed and strengthened based on the historic experiences of the struggles of the Cuban people and the military structure in socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union/.

It is very important to know the /directions/ of work to strengthen single command in the FAR in the present stage.

The chiefs and officers are the backbone of the FAR. The successful fulfillment of the tasks and missions that have been assigned to the FAR depend to a great extent on their activities.

The Programmatic Platform of the PCC, emphasizing the importance of the single command in the FAR, stipulated that the party must be careful that its command, political and technical cadres are selected from the best sons of the people and that these attain high-level political, moral, military and technical training.⁹

The training process for the military cadres is aimed at giving them political, military and technical knowledge and developing skills and high-level political, moral, psychological and combat qualities in them which, as a whole, respond to the general requirements of the party and the government for leadership cadres of the Cuban socialist state and to the specific requirements for FAR cadres.

These requirements are formulated in the governing documents of the party and in the military laws, regulations, orders, directives and provisions. They are imposed by the conditions and characteristics of contemporary combat, the technical equipment of the troops, the development of military art and science, the complexness of instruction and education of the personnel and the need to maintain a high political and moral level in the soldiers, among other basic factors.

The main requirements for the military cadres include the following:

Have a high political and ideological level based on Marxism-Leninism and loyalty to the party, the working class and the people; have high-level professional training, general and military culture and competence for the position; have an iron will in command and organizational ability; have courage, firmness

and decisiveness; stand out in initiative and independence; know how to instruct and educate the personnel; be concerned and attend to their problems; have discipline and executive ability; have modesty, simplicity, solid personal prestige and exemplariness; and be critical, self-critical and demanding with himself and others.

Strengthening the single command is an objective need in the development of the FAR. Firm, strong and consistent command is a decisive factor in the maintenance of high-level combat readiness. It is also fundamental to insure correspondence between the training, knowledge and qualities of the chiefs and officers and the high-level demands and requirements presented.

The PCC and the Cuban Government have decided that strengthening the single command is one of the main tasks in the FAR. The Main Report to the Second PCC Congress emphasized: "The organisms and organizations of the party have adapted work methods and styles to the specific conditions of military life, increasing the effectiveness of the party tasks aimed at educating the cadres and soldiers...strengthening discipline and the single command."¹⁰

The work to strengthen the single command includes all the multilateral, systematic activities that the chiefs, officers, political organisms (systems) and organizations of the party and the UJC carry out in the FAR: for the formation, development and improvement of high-level political, moral, psychological and combat qualities in the chiefs and officers; for the increase and improvement of their technical, military and political training; for the improvement of their work style and development of their organizational ability in the exercise of command; and also for the education of all the personnel toward an in-depth understanding of the need and essence of the single command and toward subordination to and love and respect for the chiefs and officers.

The main directions of political and party work with the chiefs and officers to strengthen single command are:

Increase of their political and ideological level;

Increase and improvement of their military and technical knowledge and methodology;

Improvement of their work style;

Instruction of the chiefs and officers in political and party work, their active participation in it and instruction in supporting themselves on the party organizations;

Development of the joint and harmonious work of chiefs, officers and political workers;

Formation and development in the chiefs and officers of high-level political, moral and combat qualities; and

Development and improvement in the young officers of the knowledge, skills and qualities necessary to exercise command.

The main directions of political and party work with the personnel to strengthen single command include:

Explanation and publicity on the concept, need, essence and importance of single command in the FAR;

Education of the soldiers in the precise and complete fulfillment of the orders and provisions of the chiefs through conscientious subordination; and

Education of the personnel in love, respect and confidence in the chiefs.

The single command in the FAR is the basic organizational principle of the Cuban military constitution.

Its socialist essence under the conditions of the FAR leads to its characteristics, fundamentally its /party base/. The single command in the FAR also has idiosyncrasies based on the historic time of its development and the specific nature of the Cuban Revolution.

The PCC has made strengthening single command one of the main tasks in the FAR. The PCC presents the chiefs and officers of the FAR many high-level demands.

The work to strengthen single command implicitly means increased knowledge and development of habits, skills and political, moral and combat qualities in the command cadres so that they measure up to these demands and play the role that corresponds to them in the fulfillment of the FAR missions.

The content of the political and party work is multifaceted and needs a discriminating and integral focus for application. Only the unity of strengthening single command with the reinforcement and increase of political and party work insures success in the fulfillment of the missions assigned to the large, medium and small units of the FAR.

FOOTNOTES

1. Programmatic Platform of the PCC, p 115.
2. Interior Service Regulation of the FAR.
3. "Immediate Tasks of the Soviet Government," V. I. Lenin, O. C., Vol 27, p 264.
4. "All to the fight against Denikin," V. I. Lenin, O. C., Vol 29, p 429.
5. Circular to the chiefs and officers of the Liberating Army, Magazine T.P., Issue 3/72, p 26.
6. Che Guevara, T-I, Edicion Casa de las Americas.
7. Programmatic Platform of the PCC, p 115.

8. Report of the CC of the PCC to the First Party Congress, p 113.
9. Programmatic Platform of the PCC, p 115.
10. Main Report to the Second PCC Congress, p 62.

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CSO: 3248/1250

BRIEFS

RIVER STUDY--An investigation of the low flows of six rivers on the eastern coast of Dominica is underway, according to a statement in Barbados. The Barbados-based Caribbean Operational Hydrology Institute and the Caribbean Meteorological Institute said that in association with the Dominica Government and the Caribbean Development Bank, they were involved in the probe. The investigation is part of a feasibility study into the development of mini-hydroelectric schemes to provide power to some Dominica communities. The project consists of measuring low flows over a 15-month period. As an assistance to this study, the institute is also undertaking a drought analysis, using monthly and daily rainfall records. "The analysis will allow the estimation of the possibility of receiving varying amounts of rainfall for different durations," the statement said. (CANA) [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/897

REPORT ON BISHOP'S VISIT TO CUBA FOR MONCADA ANNIVERSARY

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Earl Bousquet]

[Text] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop returned here Thursday afternoon after a three day visit to Cuba where he attended various activities marking the 30th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison, in 1953, which signalled the final phase of the struggle to free Cuba from its long history of foreign domination.

The past 30 years have seen Cuba liberated in 1959 and go on to become the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere, surpassing all its neighbours in its efforts to bring the best social benefits to its people.

It was this that formed the basis for the massive celebration on Tuesday with representatives of governments, parties and progressive forces from throughout the world.

PM Bishop, however, was the only head of government there in a delegation that included Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman.

The PM had a busy schedule during his visit: he attended the main rally held in Cuba's second largest city, Santiago de Cuba; addressed a ceremony opening one of the largest textile complexes constructed throughout Latin America; visited and met residents and officials of the city of Holguin, toured a massive technical complex which produces equipment for the Cuban sugar industry; laid a wreath at the monument to Cuban national hero, Calixto Garcia; opened a new restaurant and visited several important project sites in Holguin, fulfilling a promise made to the residents there during a visit last year.

As always, PM Bishop was well-received by the Cuban people. He received a thunderous and sustained applause when introduced (next to President Fidel Castro) at the July 26 Moncada rally, attended by over 200,000 people from throughout Cuba.

The entire Cuban people were able, once again, to listen to him, leader on a television transmission of his brief address to the opening ceremony at the new Celia Sanchez Manduley textile complex in Santiago.

He paid tribute to the international significance of the Moncada attack, and in reiterating the strong and everlasting bonds of friendship between the Grenadian and Cuban Revolutions and people, he presented Pres Castro with one of the .303 rifles captured during the pre-dawn attack on the True Blue barracks which heralded the triumph during the pre-dawn attack in the English-speaking Caribbean, on March 13, 1979.

Receiving the rifle, Pres Castro said it was similar to some used by the Cuban revolutionaries in the Sierra Maestra mountains on the eve of the Cuban Revolution. It would be placed in a museum, he said, but added that it, too, would be put into use, if necessary in the event of an imperialist attack on the Cuban Revolution, as being advocated by certain sectors in the current US administration.

PM Bishop told the Cuban people that the textile complex, built with assistance from the Soviet Union, demonstrated the everlasting significance of "proletarian internationalism." It was this same spirit of internationalism, he said, which had seen Cuba giving invaluable assistance to the Grenadian Revolution in its four years.

Hallmark of this was the building of Grenada's new international airport at Point Salines, which is now nearing completion in time for the fifth anniversary of the Revolution next March.

"Thanks to the Reagan Administration, Grenada is building the most publicised international airport in the world, and when it is completed next year, we will have to thank President Reagan for all the free publicity he has given to us," he said. The PM's address was punctuated on numerous occasions by applause.

In his lengthy address, Pres Castro hit out hard against Reagan's claim that the Point Salines airport posed a threat to US national security, calling this "ridiculous." This very airport would be used even by Americans, who may wish to visit Grenada, to enjoy the sunshine and beautiful beaches, "because the airport's main aim was to improve the development of tourism, which is a vital pillar of the Grenadian economy," Pres Castro pointed out.

PM Bishop also reiterated Grenada's continuing support for and solidarity with the Nicaraguan Revolution. He said that the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) also supported the initiatives of the so-called Contadora Group of Latin American countries who were calling for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Central American crisis.

And he expressed Grenada's support for the six-point plan unveiled by Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, at the fourth anniversary celebrations of the Nicaraguan Revolution last July 19, saying that this plan, if agreed to by all the parties to the Central American conflict, would do well to bring much-needed peace to that part of the region.

During his visit, PM Bishop was able to discuss issues of mutual importance with Pres Castro.

U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA CALLED 'INSANE'

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The Ronald Reagan administration has once more come under fire from within the United States itself, for its continued warmongering practices in Central America.

Robert McNamara and Cyrus Vance are among the latest set of officials who have openly criticised the Reagan administration's approach to solving some of the many conflicts of the Central American region.

They have all urged that a political solution is infinitely more important to Central America than the "scatter-brained" military option chosen and pursued by Reagan.

US public opinion has already expressed its dissatisfaction with Reagan's policies and activities in Central America, urging the administration that it seems bent on creating yet another Viet Nam situation.

In the midst of increasing evidence, the US public has begun to align themselves with world public opinion in condemning the US administration as the aggressor in the Central American conflict.

Next month, the US has planned a major military manoeuvre for Central America, and already some 2,500 demonstrators showed their disapproval with a demonstration before the US Embassy in Mexico.

More such demonstrations will take place as more and more people are becoming aware of the growing desperation of US imperialism. Everywhere, progressive thinking people are acknowledging the insanity of the Reagan policy towards Central America.

Evidence has always been available to show without doubt the mass popularity of the Nicaraguan Revolution, which recently celebrated its fourth anniversary.

Evidence is also there to show the mass support being enjoyed by the liberation forces now struggling in El Salvador.

However, the Administration does not concern itself with mass support. Viet Nam revealed, among other things, that the US does not even concern itself with mass animosity and antagonism towards itself. Its only concern has to do with the protection of what it considers its own interests.

The US administration's activities in Central America has to do with its own decadence, with the fact that relatively small countries like Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, and Suriname can, right under its nose, have revolutions aimed at building new societies not dictated nor determined by anyone other than their own working people.

Reagan and his warmongering clique, like all administrations before, seem totally incapable of understanding the determination of a united people. This was not understood in Cuba, it was not understood in Viet Nam, it is not being understood in Nicaragua.

The fighting spirit of the children of Sandino is greater than the war-mongering allies of Reagan. The freedom fighters of El Salvador, strengthened by the blood of heroes in the struggle for liberation, peace and social progress, will not yield to mounting US pressure.

The days of the Wild West are over. All the world now know the truth of the "cowboys and Indians." The American Indians, properly so called, are today staking their legitimate claim to sovereignty; are today condemning US policies as related to themselves; and are today joining forces with all of mankind in condemning US activities in Central America.

Central America is clearly the new US battlezone. However, times have changed. The forces of liberation are manifold across the globe. Progressive forces are everywhere to be found in large numbers. US imperialism is making its last stand, in the hope of gaining some credence.

We unconditionally support the Nicaraguan Revolution in the present time. And we also fully support the freedom fighters of El Salvador. We are confident that the progressive forces will be victorious.

CSO: 3298/887

AIRPORT PROJECT MANAGER NOTES PREPARATIONS FOR START-UP

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Nine Grenadians are now in England training in air traffic control and four in Barbados in meteorology to work at the international airport on its completion.

This was airport project manager Bob Evans' response to a question from a worker at the Seventh St George's Workers' Parish Council meeting at Butler's House in Belmont on Tuesday.

In addition, Evans said some firemen returned to Grenada recently from a course in fire fighting and others from courses in radio operating and the operating and maintenance of equipment from England and Finland.

He said that the part of Hardy Bay at the airport site that was left unfilled will remain as it is to enhance the scenery.

Evans also reassured workers that the international airport will be completed in time for the Fifth Festival of the Revolution in March next year.

The entire length of the 9,000 ft strip is paved, he said, and the lighting system and the terminal building's are 40 percent completed, the control tower is 85 percent completed, the main cargo area is expected to be finished next month, while work on the fuel farm is in progress with four fuel tanks already in place. Also, the central generation room is almost complete.

The International Airport project, Evans said, now employs over 400 Grenadians.

Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Nazim Burke, said that at the recent Caricom heads of governments' summit in Trinidad, to which he was a member of the Grenada delegation, in spite of all imperialism's hostilities, Grenada was able to demonstrate its determination and strength.

One of the most important victories, he said, was that the delegation was able to reveal the truth of the Grenada Revolution to the Trinidad masses.

He specially referred to a mass rally at the University of the West Indies campus which 1,500 people attended, chanting pro-Grenada slogans.

Burke said that Prime Minister Maurice Bishop strongly rejected Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga's claim of no democracy in Grenada and his call to include Haiti in Caricom, Haiti being one of the biggest abusers of human rights in the region.

He also reiterated Grenada's support for the integration of all Caricom countries to fight the big powers, who, if given a chance, will take them over completely.

The meeting was also addressed by Cuban Ambassador Julian Rizo on the importance of the Moncada attack in 1953, and a film on PM Bishop's recent visit to the United States was shown.

CSO: 3298/887

FORTHCOMING VISITS OF VARIOUS FOREIGN GROUPS REPORTED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 6

[Text]

THREE of the 14 groups to visit Grenada between July and August have been here and the others will be coming during the next two weeks.

The overall co-ordinator of the groups activities Nelson Louison, explained that the groups' visit are due to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's visits abroad and the total solidarity with the Grenada Revolution.

Louison said nine of the 14 groups will be here for the Carnival celebrations, as part of the Caribbean excursion which has now become an annual event, and which he thinks is important for our development process.

Most of the people coming here, he said are those who support and want to see the Grenada Revolution go forward, adding that as a result of the Prime Minister's visit to Trinidad during the Caricom meeting, 48 Trinidadians are coming to show their deep support and solidarity for the Grenada Revolution over the next two weeks.

The main objectives of the visits, Louison said is to do research on

aspects of improvements of the Grenada economy and to lay a better basis for tourism improvements.

Two bands, a football and netball team will also be coming during the next two weeks from St. Vincent and Dominica. Twelve calypsonians will also be here to take part in the Caribbean Calypso and culture show to be held in Grenada for the second time.

Two of the three groups here are Stony Brook University and the National Union of Teachers in Britain which includes members of the British Grenada Friendship Society. The other group, the Circle of Friends from West Germany, left about two weeks ago.

As part of the Caribbean excursion, 150 persons will arrive from St. Lucia, 100 from Dominica, 100 from St. Vincent, 50 from the Grenada Revolutionary League, in New York, 20 from Fun Lovers in New York, another 20 from the New York City University and another two groups from Canada all arriving next week and will be involved in similar activities.

UNIONS MEET, TAKE FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIONS

CIWU Constitutional Changes

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

MEMBERS of the Commercial and Industrial Workers' Union (CIWU) have approved six amendments to its constitution designed to expand democracy through greater rank-and-file participation.

The amendments dealt with issues related to general meetings, executive positions, branch meetings and shop stewards.

They were approved on Monday afternoon at CIWU's 27th annual general meeting, held at the Public Workers' Union (PWU) centre in Tanteen, St. George's.

CIWU president John Chalkie Ventour, told the workers that the changes will help democratise the union's leadership and train workers to assume leadership positions.

Members agreed that two general meetings should be convened each year, instead of one each month as was stipulated in the old constitution.

Because of the growth in CIWU's membership in recent years, members accepted a proposal that monthly branch meetings should be introduced.

They also agreed to establish a secretariat, comprising executive members, field officers and other full-time workers, to manage the union's daily affairs.

Members voted unanimously for the introduction of union branches and for the rules and regulations under which these will operate.

However, they objected to a proposal that the post of general secretary should be an elected one, by voting to retain the old system whereby the executive committee chooses the secretary.

The well-attended meeting heard an address by Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour, Selwyn Strachan, reports from CIWU's

general secretary/treasurer Elliot Bishop and solidarity messages from other trade unions.

In his report on CIWU's activities over the past year, Bishop disclosed that some 18 out of 20 industrial contracts negotiated have been signed, and it now plans to work on four more.

CIWU last Friday signed a two year industrial contract with the Tempe Manufacturing Company, under which workers will get a share of profits, among other benefits.

Over 100 workers' grievances have been solved in the past year, despite organisational problems, he said.

Bishop contrasted this to the situation under the Eric Gairy regime, which he said, sided with the capitalists in their grievances

with workers.

He urged members to support the international struggle for detente, an end to the arms race and world peace.

At the same time, he called on them to participate in the Revolution's programme and help build the country.

All members of CIWU's outgoing executive, including president Ventour and vice-president Anselm Debourg, were re-elected unopposed for another term.

TAWU Council Action

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

"THE kind of discussions we had would not be only in the interest of ourselves, but the entire country. It helped us to become conscious-minded in every respect."

So commented Central Water Commission (CWC) worker, Burie Thomas, on his participation in the Technical and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) third general council meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting, held at the Public Workers Union (PWU) centre in Tanteen, reviewed TAWU's 1983 workplan and discussed topical issues affecting its workers.

TAWU president Jim Wardally, who chaired the meeting, gave a report on its successes in fulfilling the 10 main objectives in the workplan.

Committees were elected to deal with negotiations, education,

finance, fund-raising administration and emulation and production. These issues, including administration, were discussed in five workshops as the main ones facing the union.

The 100-strong general council, which had its first meeting in January, has been introduced to replace the management committee as the body responsible for making all TAWU's major decisions. It meets every four months.

The meeting was attended by some 70 workers, an increase in the number present at the last one in April.

Assistant General Secretary Carl Johnson, said that the workers mood and participation were high.

Said Kenneth Edward, a worker of the Grenada Electricity Services Limited, (Grenlec), "I think that the meeting was good."

BGWU Seminar

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

THE Bank and General Worker's Union (BGWU) recently held a two-day training seminar for 43 of its shop stewards to assist them in improving the union's work in their respective workplaces.

Held at the Boca Junior Secondary School in St. George's, it focussed on topics such as grievance handling, negotiating, drafting and using a union contract, the qualities and duties of a shop steward, and the relevance of adult education to good leadership.

A BGWU official said the seminar was the first of its kind organised by the union and pointed out that shop stewards have already begun to implement what they have learnt.

The mood and participation of the workers he said were high throughout.

The seminar ended with addresses from Minister of National Mobilisation and Labour, Selwyn Strachan and general secretary of the Grenada Trades Union Council (TUC), John "Chalkie" Ventour. Emulation prizes and certificates were also given out to the participants.

Meanwhile, the BGWU recently signed some six industrial contracts and intend to sign another two soon with Pastryman restaurant and bar in St. George's and the Modern Photo Studio in Grenville.

It is now negotiating contracts with the National Commercial Bank, Deco Industries Limited, the Grenada Breweries Limited, Blue Daunbe grocery and bakery and Key Universal.

The union has also been successful in unionising workers at the Mt. Hartman Livestock and Genetic centre in St. George's.

CSO: 3298/888

BRIEFS

STATE ENTERPRISE UNREST--Despite the Peruvian Government's promises that no employee of the state-run fisheries enterprise would be dismissed, the threat of unemployment looms over 4,300 of the enterprise's workers and employees, the Intervention Commission [Comision Interventora] has reported. PESCAPERU [State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency] is facing a serious economic crisis, with losses amounting to \$254 million. Its failure to pay salaries for several months has caused its workers to occupy its office since 12 August and to stage strikes and protests. According to the Intervention Commission, PESCAPERU can be saved only with a capital investment of \$120 million, which the Peruvian state is not in a position to make, or with a drastic reduction of its installed capacity, which would imply a mass dismissal of workers. The Peruvian Government's plans have been categorically rejected by PESCAPERU's workers, who have proposed as an alternative that it be turned over to them as a cooperative in exchange for their unpaid salaries and benefits. [Text] [PA131741 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 83]

CSO: 3348/660

EDITORIAL: GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO MORE TO CHECK SUBVERSION

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 30 Jul 83 p 2

[Editorial: "High Degree of Secrecy"]

[Text]

THE Libyan affair has been aired publicly during the past week. There have been charges, denials and counter charges from many of those whose names have been linked with it. There has been, as well, the usual rhetoric and in some cases, explanations which have nothing to do with the question that is still operating in the minds of many St. Lucians.

The question is this: Did the Progressive Labour Party secretly recruit a group of St. Lucians to be trained in terrorism and sabotage in Libya?

We don't have the answer, but what we do know is that contrary to what Mr. Odum tells us, that if he wanted to send them secretly we would not have sent them all together at once, and that there is no need to send people to be trained in terrorism in Libya, there is enough evidence to draw the conclusion that there was a high degree of secrecy in the whole thing. And because of this, there is merit the Government adopting the stand it has.

We say this against the background of the 1979 incident when Mr. Odum was involved in a similar affair which saw 12 people being handpicked and sent off to be trained in the use of arms in Grenada, all in great secrecy.

On that occasion, Mr. Odlum, then a Minister in the Labour Party Government, did not tell the country about it, not even after questions had been raised in the House of Assembly by the then Opposition.

One look at some of those so called "students" must make one wonder about the kind of "technical skills" they would have been required to study in Libya, if "study" is the applicable word here.

Neither can Mr. Odlum's recent threats against the life of the duly-elected government of this country be ignored. It makes one wonder whether the PLP leader has abandoned the democratic process as a means of getting into the seat of government, a means which brought him success in 1979, even though defeat three years later.

Is he telling us that the democratic system of choosing governments — whereby people get into power and stay there so long as the people want them to — is wrong?

Our people in St. Lucia will not know what true freedom is until they have lost it. It is the responsibility of the Government to see to it that our democratic system of choosing governments, which has now become traditional, remains intact.

Frankly, we do not believe that the government is doing as much as it should to check these recent manifestations of, or tendencies towards subversion.

If there is a serious threat to the security of this country, as many seem to believe, we say it is time that the people of St. Lucia be mobilised to fight it.

One of the virtues of democracy was in evidence this week, where accusations were made and the accused had the opportunity to reply and defend themselves. St. Lucians must always strive to have this sort of two-way dialogue retained.

The people of Grenada and other countries in this hemisphere which are being held up as a "model" do not have this free exchange of views. They cannot, like the PLP did this week, take to the public platform and refer to the Prime Minister of this country as a liar. This is true democracy, and thank God for it.

BRIEFS

MOVE AGAINST MINISTER--Castries Saint Lucia (IPS)--Saint Lucia's opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP) is pressing the government to remove Agriculture Minister IRA Dauvergne from the Cabinet because he holds several positions incompatible with his ministerial status. The party's lone member in the Eastern Caribbean island's 17-member Parliament, J. Odlum, made the call in a letter to Governor Sir Allen Lewis and Speaker of the House of Assembly Wilfred St Clair Daniel. Odlum said in addition to his ministerial position, Dauvergne was chairman of a private company and a director of an association of private agriculturists. The company, Copra Manufacturers Limited, produces coconut-based product for export. Dauvergne is also a director of the Coconut Growers Association which groups the island's major coconut growers. Odlum, brother of PLP leader George Odlum, said the Minister's various positions represented "A conflict of interest and contravened the Saint Lucia Constitution." [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jul 83 p 5]

CEMENT IMPORTS--Castries, Saint Lucia (IPS)--The John Comptom government in the Eastern Caribbean island of Saint Lucia, fulfilling an election promise, has returned responsibility for importation of cement to the private sector. This was announced in Castries Monday by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, following a week-end meeting with officials of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Chamber's weekened announcement said there would be a slight reduction in cement prices. In the meantime, the government remains the sole importer of rice, flour and sugar. Responsibility for importing these products will soon be removed from the Ministry of Trade, however, and passed on to the government's marketing board. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jul 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/891

DOMINICAN PAPER SAYS CATO WILL RUN FOR REELECTION

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 6 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

THERE are strong rumours in Dominica that Mr. Milton Cato, the Prime Minister of St. Vincent, will not be running for re-election and the man to succeed him as Prime Minister is Mr. Berns Banodie who recently resigned as Secretary-treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), to take up a Senatorial appointment in his homeland.

A telephone call to Mr. Cato's office in St. Vincent however revealed that there was "no substance" in the rumour that Mr. Cato does not intend to run for election.

Possible Successor to Mr. Banodie on the CCL will be Mr. Charles Savarin who is General Secretary of the Dominica Civil Service Association and President of the Barbados based Caribbean Public Service Association (CPSA) and who, from August 1 last is on 13 months leave of absence.

Mr. Savarin told the NEW CHRONICLE that the leave should be simply regarded as "much needed leave" and he felt it timely since there were no "pressing urgencies" or "urgent activities" which, in the past, had denied him such leave.

When questioned about speculation concerning a cabinet appointment, he replied that such speculation "is indeed, speculation" and is nothing new since it has been around since the last election.

Mr. Savarin said that he has been approached by "people of interest and influence" with regards to possible appointment as Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), but that he had not yet made a decision and a decision was not due till the end of November.

CSO: 3298/892

DETAILS ON THREE CANDIDATES FOR BY-ELECTION 12 SEPTEMBER

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 12 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Senator Valcina Ash, a business woman in Barrouallie is the St Vincent Labour Party candidate for the Bye-election in the Central Leeward Constituency.

Mrs Ash, was unanimously endorsed by the party Executive at its meeting last week, Thursday; and, on Sunday at a rally in Barrouallie where she lives, Prime Minister Milton Cato presented to her to an estimated 15,000 of supporters wearing shirts endorsing her nomination. Conspicuous on these printed shirts were slogans like: "Women say Ash," and "Ash--we Always See Her."

Supporting speeches on Mrs Ash's candidacy were made by several Ministers and party supporters.

Mrs Ash in her acceptance speech called for unity among the people of the area, and pledged her support and assistance in providing jobs for the people, housing for the needy, and equal opportunity for all regardless of sex, race or political affiliation.

The reaction of the large word to her address was on the whole, favourable.

However, the crowd did not lack an opposition element.

Slogans on placards indicated disapproval of the Labour Party and their candidate.

NDP Presents Young

The New Democratic Party have already presented their candidate, Herbert Young, a former civil servant, informally to the people of the Central Leeward Constituency. Mr Young's formal presentation will take place at luncheons in Barrouallie and Layou on Saturday and Sunday this weekend.

SNM Selects Richards

The St Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement has selected as its candidate for contesting the Bye-Election in the Central Leeward Constituency, Mr Edgerton Richards. Mr Richards will have his first presentation to the Constituency at Barrouallie on Sunday, 14th August, 1983, at 5.00 p.m. Presentations to the Constituency at Layou and Buccament are due to take place during the coming week.

Mr Richards is a well known businessman, better known as "Uncle Metro" of Metrocint Insurance Company.

S.N.M. symbol is the CLOCK.

CSO: 3298/902

ALLIANCE, ONR GAIN IN ELECTIONS, ASSESSMENTS FOLLOW VOTE

Report on Results

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Article by John Babb]

[Text]

A POLITICAL accommodation between the opposition parties — the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) and the National Alliance — last night broke the stranglehold which the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) had on the County Councils among which the Opposition took control of at least four — Caroni, St. George East, Victoria and St. Patrick.

But the PNM was able to stave off the combined attack in the municipalities, and so retained control of all four municipal councils — Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, Arima and Point Fortin.

The PNM suffered the most telling blow in County Caroni, where in 1980 it won eight of the 12 seats.

But in yesterday's election the party failed to win one seat. And so Caroni is now back under the control of the National Alliance — the Opposition having won all 12 seats, one of which went to ONR.

Although the PNM retained control of the four municipalities, it will no longer be smooth sailing in those councils for the party as it was over the past three years, for the Opposition has made inroads into some PNM areas.

In Port-of-Spain, the PNM won eight of the 12 seats with the remaining four going to the ONR.

The PNM suffered two significant losses in the capital. Grace Talma, the management consultant and PNM candidate lost the Woodbrook seat to Stanley John of the ONR, who polled 1,017 — just over two-to-one.

The other major defeat was that of former radio personality Mervyn Telfer of the PNM, who mustered only 339 votes in the Northern seat. He lost to Jensen Fox of the ONR, who polled 714.

The battle was close in Arima, where the PNM captured four of the seven seats — a majority of one seat over the ONR.

Former mayor Norman Kistow bowed to defeat by Mrs. Gloria Thomasos-Pollard of the ONR, who won with 580 votes to Kistow's 383.

One other significant feature of the Arima battle was the defeat of Shaffique Khan. All before as an Independent he won the seat, and contesting for the first time under the PNM banner, he lost it.

In San Fernando, it was also defeat for the former mayor — William Steele. He lost his Springvale/Vistabella seat by one vote to Amral Khan of the ONR, who polled 526 votes.

Of the overall nine seats, the PNM won six.

Point Fortin was the only municipality in which the ruling party had things much its own way. Up to Press time, the PNM was slated to win all six seats.

Despite the problems of flooding and other problems normally associated with voting, there was a heavy turnout of voters in the rural south.

For example, in County Victoria, where the Opposition regained control after three years of PNM-rule, the Alliance/ONR snatched the majority of seats. However the figures for this council were unavailable at Press time.

Premchan Sookoo of the Alliance received the highest number of votes in the election overall — 3,374 in Esperance/Diamond/Debe.

In County St. Patrick, up until late results of ten of 11 seats showed a keen tussle with five seats going to the National Alliance; four to the PNM, and one to ONR.

Among the seats decided the PNM took Brighton, and the Alliance, the La Brea/Roussillac.

In St. George West, results of 14 from 19 seats revealed nine seats to the PNM and five to the ONR.

Among the PNM seats were Pt. Cumana/Chaguaramas, St. Ann's/Cascade, Mon Repos/Morvant, Petit Bourg, Maitagual, St. Barb's/Chinapoo, Covigne/Richplain, Beetham/Trou Macaque and Ft. George/Dibe.

The seats that went to the ONR were Goodwood/La Puerta, which was significant in that former Council chairman, Amoy Kong-See of the PNM lost her seat to the ONR candidate.

Other ONR seats were Patna/Diamond Vale, Maraval, El Socorro West/Barataria, and El Socorro East/Petit Bourg.

In the case of St. George East, results of ten of the 12 seats revealed that the ONR/Alliance accommodation had snatched six seats, while the PNM took the remaining four.

Up until late there were no results for seats on the St. Andrew/St. David Council.

Up until midnight last night results of 82 seats of the overall 120 had been declared, with 39 going to PNM; 22 to the Alliance, and 21 to the ONR.

The National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) failed to win one seat, thus being totally blanked again by the electorate. NJAC had sponsored 103 candidates.

Early yesterday when the polls opened at 6 a.m. voters in many

areas sent the Local Government elections off to a brisk start, but later in the day the voting fizzed out, although many business places and other places of employment closed half day to permit their employees to exercise their franchise.

However, by early evening the voting tempo picked up again, but there were differing reports from various parts of the country.

Despite the efforts of the Elections and Boundaries Commission the usual polling day problems were ever present.

Electorate staff turned up late in some areas; flooding was the stumbling block; some buildings were locked, and in one case there was no staining-ink, so the start of voting was delayed, in some instances, by hours.

VEHICLE BREAKS DOWN

Elections and Boundaries officials explaining the late arrival of ink in Nariva/Mayaro said one vehicle sent with the ink broke down on Sunday night, while another got "bogged" down in flood waters.

As a result voting in Mayaro did not begin until after 9 a.m.

At Penal, flooding of the Electricity sub-station — the site of polling stations — also delayed the scheduled start.

Some areas in Central Trinidad also suffered similar flood problems. Polling did not get underway until mid-morning when the flood waters had subsided.

At Barataria Anglican school polling began late because the building was still locked at 6 a.m.

Reports also showed that a polling station at Tunapuna — #1630 — opened late since there was no presiding officer at the scheduled time. At Belmont Circular Road voting reportedly also started late.

The Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) complained yesterday that at some polling stations there were pictures of the Prime Minister who is the Political Leader of the ruling People's National Movement, and said, too, that at the St. Crispin's school in Woodbrook supporters of a political party were openly canvassing near the polling station.

The ONR noted too that at a polling station in St. Joseph a picture of the Prime Minister was removed after protest and placed in the car of a presiding officer.

The normal late evening traffic jams were brought forward yesterday to early evening as workers left their jobs from around 2.00 p.m. to go and vote. They had been given time off by their employers to perform their civic duty.

Vote Count by Jurisdiction

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 83 pp 1, 22

[Text]

MANY results of yesterday's Local Government elections had not been received up to press time last night. Following are those reaching the "Guardian" offices (asterisks denoting the winners):

PORT OF SPAIN

St James East (4,342)

Zainool Ali	PNM	420
Jainool Ramjohn	ONR	853 *
Edward Christian	NJAC	38

St James West (4,281)

Stephenson Sargeant	PNM	565 *
Winston Mulligan	ONR	425
Annie Marie Belfon	NJAC	82

Woodbrook (4,396)

Grace Talma	PNM	505
Stanley John	ONR	1017 *
Jawara Mobota	NJAC	42

Northern (4,022)

Mervyn Telfer	PNM	339
Jensen Fox	ONR	714 *
Baba Suic	NJAC	37

Southern (4,640)

Albert Bailey	PNM	
Andy Rodriguez-Seijas	ONR	

Central (4,548)

Steve Grant	PNM	
Alvin Adams	NJAC	

St Ann's River South (4,811)

Robert Chee Moke	PNM	799 *
Franklyn Baptiste	ONR	173
Zakiya Naila	NJAC	120

St. Ann's River Central (4,435)

Lucille Chryssostom	PNM	580 *
Elmond Haynes	ONR	239
Aluko Mahluli	NJAC	172

St Ann's River North (4,696)

Eulalie James	PNM	672 *
Chi Kamose	NJAC	271

Belmont South (4,708)

Glennis Jackson	PNM	756 *
Lawrence Downes	ONR	301
Hazel Griffith	NJAC	135

Belmont East (5,073)

William Johnson	PNM	682 *
Elmo Rousseau	ONR	266
Moriba Kwamina	NJAC	159

Belmont West (4,436)

Clifford Phillips	PNM	666 *
Henry Smart	ONR	382
Tertius Leslie	NJAC	100

SAN FERNANDO

St Joseph / Vistabella (2,979)

Rakeeb Hosein	PNM	552 *
Wilma Balladin	ONR	446
Kenrick Perrot	NJAC	56

Springvale / Vistabella (3,170)

William Steele	PNM	525
Amral Khan	ONR	526 *
Michael Limchan	NJAC	67

East / Central (3,404)

Knolly Huggins	PNM	650 *
Ian Atherly	ONR	559
Winnifred Hills	NJAC	43

Paradise (3,090)

Ivan Toolsie	PNM	407
Marlene Ambrose	ONR	643 *

Pleasantville / Ciperio (3,264)

Winston Moore	PNM	630 *
Imitiaz Hassanali	ONR	453
Moussa Mugabe	NJAC	146

Les Efforts (3,235)

Amjad Ali	PNM	591
Shair Ali	ONR	670 *
Leo Guide	NJAC	—

Pleasantville / Navet (3,184)

Vernon Leotaud	PNM	503 *
Keith Murray	NJAC	119

West / Central (2,892)

Enez Smith	PNM	426 *
Hudson Guishard	ONR	402
Oronko Barka	NJAC	86

Naparima (2,837)

Roger Parris	PNM	467 *
Oliver Holder	ONR	264

ARIMA

Calvary (3,127)

Leroy Morris	PNM	514 *
Clifford Carrera	ONR	402
Martin James	NJAC	94
Gerald Assee	IND	99

Arima North East (2,733)

Rose Janniere	PNM	494 *
Brian Libert	ONR	326
Noel Baboolal	NJAC	68

Arima North West (1,887)

Jeannette Gay	PNM	346
Edward Melvin	ONR	357 *
Bayete Imhote	NJAC	59

Arima Central

Jim Morris	PNM	372 *
Hebery Maharaj	ONR	267
Gerald St Jones	NJAC	160

Tumpuna (3,174)			Phoenix Park / Claxton Bay (8,063)			El Socorro East / Petit Bourg (10,803)		
Shaffick Khan	PNM	538	Stalin Mungal	PNM	738	Mohammed Hosein	PNM	630
Keith Denalli	ONR	680	Sheriff Ali	NA	1891*	Deo Ramsingh	ONR	140**
Anthony Clement	NJAC	129				Errol Glasgow	NJAC	1
Malabar (2,700)			ST. GEORGE WEST			Mount D'Or Aranguet (10,501)		
Hugh Hackett	PNM	597 *	Point Cumana / Chaguaramas (8,950)			Umlita Lamont	PNM	—
Conrad Thomas	ONR	303	Betty St. Louis	PNM	1323*	Martin Lewis	ONR	—
Debra Campbell	NJAC	95	Margaret Hector	ONR	669	Babu Orusu	NJAC	—
O'Meara (2,892)			Bert Lewis	NJAC	212	St. Barb's / Chinapoo		
Norman Kistow	PNM	383	Goodwood / La Puerta (10,048)			Muriel Mitchell	PNM	1270*
Gloria Pollard	ONR	580 *	Amoy Kong See	PNM	871	Anum Bankole	NJAC	348
Peter Hosein	NJAC	63	Patrick Rampersad	ONR	1524*	ST GEORGE EAST		
CARONI			Glenroy Sandy	NJAC	110	Valsayn / St Joseph (7,283)		
Felicity / Guayamare (8,124)			Covigne / Rich Plain (10,057)			Sheed Nabbie	PNM	682
Krishna Maharaj	PNM	573	Cecil Tom Kin	PNM	1236*	Albert Montano	ONR	1,135 *
Vishnu Tikasingh	NA	2800*	Daniel Rampersad	ONR	641	Joseph Farrell	NJAC	90
Brando Persad	NJAC	40	Peter Phillip	NJAC	212	Orange Grove (7,198)		
Mookram			Edgar Whiley	IND	38	Boysie Mungal	PNM	688
Bhagwandeem	IND		Fort George / Dibe (9,882)			Sarju Hardial	NA	2,054 *
Bejucal / Charleville (7,091)			Zennie Renn	PNM	1046*	Caura (7,798)		
Krishna Ramkissoon	PNM	381	Martin Walters	NJAC	386	Junior Reyes	PNM	—
Abu Hassan	ONR	2,571*	Morne Coco / Cameron (9,171)			Sankar Rampersad	NA	—
Las Lomas / Chin Chin (6,632)			Francis Romany	PNM	—	St Augustine (7,417)		
Basdeo Maharaj	PNM	489	Lemus Warrick	ONR	—	Melbourne McLean	PNM	767
Gandhi Persad	NA	1823*	Reginald Crichlow	NJAC	—	Enal Ragbirsingh	NA	1,528 *
Jeromi Lennard	NJAC	42	Patna / Diamond Vale (10,930)			Tunapuna (7,643)		
Esmeralda / Montrose (7,833)			Adolphus Phillip	PNM	1372	Bertrand Robinson	PNM	1,224 *
Sheila Craig	PNM	894 *	Leo Des Vignes	ONR	1439*	Robert Maxwell	NA	940
Dennis Singh	NA	1,648	Kala Akii-Bua	NJAC	97	Michael Celestine	NJAC	92
Marie Fernandes	NAJC	67	Maraval (9,931)			St Benedict (7,160)		
Longdenville / Enterprise (6,933)			Justin Diaz	PNM	879	Kelshall Bennett	PNM	1,341 *
Clinton Charles	PNM	1,225	Peter Tardieu	ONR	1506*	Phyllis Besson	ONR	543
Samuel Jattan	NA	1,806*	Azikiwe Smenkh Kara	NJAC	136	Melville Joseph	NJAC	77
Janice Leonard	NJAC	64	St. Ann's / Cascade (11,120)			Curepe (6,696)		
Waterloo / Perseverance (7,741)			Audric Pantaleon	PNM	1103*	Ivan Roopia	PNM	637
Nazir Ali	PNM		Maralyn Boucaud	ONR	806	Shah Hosein	NA	1,313 *
Mulchand Sieuchand	NA		Daouda Adjgur	NJAC	205	Herman Pollard	CUPC	187
Ashmead Aziz	NJAC		Maracas / Santa Cruz / Bourg Mulat- resse (10,548)			Lopinot / Arouca / Piarco (6,565)		
Edinburgh / Chase (7,057)			George Kangalee	PNM	—	Esme Smith	PNM	1,140 *
Rajindra Rampersad	PNM		Winston Murray	ONR	—	Stanislaus Huggins	ONR	998
Howard Maharaj	NA		Mon Repos / Morvant (10,881)			Yaa Asantewa	NJAC	70
Bernard Blache	NJAC		Lennox Constantine	PNM	1440*	Trincity / Macoya (6,646)		
Chickland / Todd's Road (7,002)			Carlos Gomes	NJAC	428	Freda McKenzie	PNM	861
Vivan Guy	PNM	550	Picton (11,275)			Andrew O'Neil	NA	1,052 *
Ramnarine Persad	NA	2430*	Ophelia Cedeno	PNM	1149*	Keith Baboolal	NJAC	101
California / Exchange (7,657)			Lawrence Barriteau	ONR	222	Haroon Mohammed	IND	36
Ramjohn Mohammed	PNM		Stephanie Weekes	NJAC	229	Blanchisseuse / Cleaver (7,514)		
Lennox Sankersingh	NA		Beetham / Trou Macaque (10,469)			Clemetina Hall	PNM	
Russel Alladin	NJAC		Uranie Henry	PNM	1053*	Rawle Raphael	ONR	
Brasso / Tabaquite (6,843)			Louise Smith	ONR	392	Farouk Khan	NJAC	
Pollard Ramsaroop	PNM	688	Kwasi Mutema	NJAC	175	D'Abadie / Bon Air La Horquetta (7,240)		
Baboolal Balkaran	NA	1,648*	Malick / Caldonia (10,374)			Jarrette Narine	PNM	1,235 *
Michael Revanales	NJAC	121	Norman Heller	PNM	—	Hector Lewis	ONR	737
Freeport / Mc Bean (8,247)			Jomo Oba Anyaca	NJAC	—	Soogrim Debysingh	NJAC	157
Desmond Baxter	PNM	798	Junior Small	IND	—	Arima / San Rafael (7,763)		
Roodal Radhay	NA	1944*	Newalloville (8,699)			Martin Munroe	PNM	932
Reynold Mungal	NJAC	34	Dave Shridat	PNM	—	Harry Goordial	ONR	1,346 *
			Peter Prosper	ONR	—			
			Babaju Sozupe	NJAC	—			
			El Socorro West / Barataria (11,709)					
			Sonny Rampersad	PNM	1109			
			Kenneth Butcher	ONR	1435*			
			David Walcott	NJAC	74			
			Petit Bourg / Maltagual (10,126)					
			Yvonne Alexander	PNM	1201*			
			Mellitius Barnes	ONR	542			
			Carl Thomas	NJAC	115			

POINT FORTIN**Guapo**

Fitzroy Hagley	PNM	444*
Lorne Phillips	ONR	219
Bernard Primus	NJAC	162

La Fortune

Carlton Hackshaw	PNM	—
Andrew Joseph	ONR	—
Nyahuma Mentuhotep	NJAC	—

Techler

Muriel Williams	PNM	—
Othullo Ochoa	NJAC	—

Point Ligoure

George Melville	PNM	489*
Emamu Obasi	NJAC	123
Bernard Kristo	ONR	205

Point Fortin Central

Lionel Blake	PNM	—
Terrence Mithcell	NJAC	—
Carol Noel	ONR	—

Cap de Ville

Rudolph Gould	PNM	—
Courtney Sealey	ONR	—
Della Obika	NJAC	—

ST. PATRICK**Siparia Central (6,732)**

Rennie Matthews	PNM	1,262 *
Henry Lum Kin	NA	1,181
Titus Bartholomew	NJAC	101

Siparia East (6,222)

Stanley Peters	PNM	754
Roland Mohammed	NA	1,522 *
Andrew Alexander	NJAC	112

Apex Pyzabad (5,662)

Winston Campbell	PNM	1,218
Arthur McSanderson	ONR	1,450 *
Cyril Willimas	NJAC	74

Godineau (7,235)

Henry Nurse	PNM	613
Rampersad Mahadeo	NA	2,514 *

Cedros (6,644)

Lewis John Williams	PNM	—
Basedo Manmohansingh	NA	—
Ciarence Brown	NJAC	—

Brighton (6,451)

Oscar Dasent	PNM	1,348 *
Llewelyn Belgrave	NA	580
Atiba Baraka	NJAC	229

La Brea / Rousillac (7,130)

Leonard Baptiste	PNM	951
Evan Ramdarsingh	NA	1,803
Gerry Tangkai	NJAC	128

San Francique / Bachyia (7,352)

Cecil Koylass	PNM	309
Alvin Mahabir	NA	2,923 *

Penal / Morne Diablo (7,745)

Zalaika Alladin	PNM	669
Rajukam Ramkissoon	NA	2,022 *
Johnson David	NJAC	97

Erin (6,134)

Sheila Lamorrel	PNM	1,198 *
Godfrey Alexis	NA	411
Loris Ballack	NJAC	236

Siparia West (6,137)

Joseph Lumkin	PNM	1,084 *
Chandra Sharma	ONR	924
Ricardo Boyce	NJAC	120

Hudson-Phillips Comment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

MR KARL HUDSON-PHILLIPS, Political Leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), has described the election results as "a breakthrough — the beginning of a new political cycle."

Mr. Hudson-Phillips, speaking at party's offices last night while the results of yesterday's Local Government elections were coming in, said: "The results confirm the ONR as the front-runner for change in Trinidad and Tobago."

"We have made a breakthrough in spite of the inefficient and corrupt electoral system."

He added: "It is quite clear that the country has expressed an opinion on the determination of the ONR and on the performance of the Government during the last 22 months."

Mr Hudson-Phillips said that the ONR would be going to Woodford Square on Thursday in a mass meeting and has invited the Alliance leaders to join them.

CLEAR INDICATION

He said that the people had clearly indicated their demand and desire for forward movement. "One is justified," he said, "in interpreting the mood of the people at the beginning of a new political cycle."

"We are prepared to carry on the fight."

Mr Hudson-Phillips said that the ONR had established itself in the minds of the people as a progressive force bringing change. "We are proud of our achievements and we are humble and determined."

"We will never permit the people to forget that they have a right to decent and honest government."

The victory could not have been possible without the support of the people, he said.

"Our intention is to work vigorously for a peaceful and democratic revolution in Trinidad and Tobago, and to join hands with all races, all religions, all classes for lasting peace and preservation of democracy."

Mr Hudson-Phillips said that the ONR local government campaign was the beginning of "our general election campaign; we do not intend to let up."

"Our people have decided to give change a chance," he said.

Panday Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

ELECTORAL accommodation reached by the Opposition National Alliance and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) is a new political instrument to put an end to racial politics in Trinidad and Tobago.

Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday underscored this point in an interview on the results of yesterday's Local Government elections.

Mr. Panday, noting that the Alliance was able to snatch back the Caroni County Council from the ruling People's National Movement (PNM)

said the results indicated the population accepted the accommodation strategy.

Having regained Caroni, Mr. Panday said the Opposition would have to do a tremendous amount of work because Central Government would try to frustrate the Opposition at the local level.

He would suggest the mobilisation of the population in a series of self-help projects.

Defeat of PNM Mayors

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

TWO new-comers to the political scene — both Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) candidates — dethroned outgoing Mayors, members of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) in yesterday's Local Government elections.

Mrs. Gloria Thomasos-Pollard, daughter of the retired Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Arnold

Thomasos (a PNM member), beat the Mayor of Arima, Mr. Norman Kistow, by 580 to 383 votes, for the O'Meara seat on the Arima Borough Council.

In San Fernando Mr. Amral Khan defeated Mayor William Steele (326 to 325 votes), to take the Springvale/Vistabella seat on the San Fernando Borough Council in yesterday's polling.

Final Election Results

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

THE RULING People's National Movement has lost control of six of the seven county councils and while retaining the municipalities and the St. George West County Council, has found the Opposition making heavy inroads into its normally "safe" areas.

It was only in Point Fortin that the PNM was returned in all the six seats, a pattern in municipalities over the past years.

However, the Alliance/Organisation for National Reconstruction accommodation "hit back" in County Caroni, taking all the seats there and blanking the PNM from any showing in the area. The Alliance won 11 seats in Caroni with the other going to the ONR.

Up to late yesterday, almost 24 hours after the polls closed, the Central Electoral Office was unable to provide final figures for some of the electoral areas including three in Port-of-Spain.

Officials at the Elections and Boundaries Commission blamed returning officers for not submitting their returns early, and pointed out that there were communication and transportation problems in some instances.

Unconfirmed reports showed that the PNM which fielded 120 candidates won 55 seats overall, the Alliance, comprising the United Labour Front, the Tapia House Movement and the Democratic Action Congress, 40 from a field of 53 candidates, while the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) which contested on the basis of an accommodation with the Alliance, won 25 seats after putting up 65 candidates.

'A TOEHOLD'

Together, the accommodation accounted for 65 seats.

The preliminary unconfirmed results show the ONR, which is enjoying its first taste of success at the polls, has gained "a toehold" in all the Local Government bodies with the exception of Point Fortin.

The Alliance has the majority in four of the councils and in the other two, while having the same number with the PNM, will have the support of the ONR to give control in appointments of chairmen and aldermen.

It is understood that the ONR Political Leader, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, will meet officials of the Alliance at the office of the Leader of the Opposition for discussions on the elections and appointments of aldermen and chairmen.

The results, unconfirmed by the Elections and Boundaries commission in some instances, show that in Port-of-Spain the PNM won eight seats, the ONR four; in San Fernando, PNM six, and ONR three; Arima PNM four and ONR three; and in Point Fortin, the PNM all six.

Results in the County Councils are:

St. George East: PNM five; ONR two; Alliance five.

St. George West: PNM 14; ONR five.

St. Patrick: PNM four, ONR one; Alliance six.

Nariva-Mayaro: PNM three; ONR one; Alliance four.

Caroni: Alliance 11, ONR one.

St. Andrew-St. David: PNM four; ONR one, Alliance four.

Victoria: PNM one, ONR four, Alliance ten.

In the past three terms, the PNM controlled all the county councils and the municipalities.

Heavy voting was evident in the Alliance strongholds where the voters turned en masse to support the Alliance and the ONR candidates.

At Caroni, none of the winning candidates polled less than 1,600 votes with eight of them polling over 2,000.

In St. Patrick, too, the, the voting was more than the 1,000 votes in all constituencies and in four where Alliance candidates won, the poll was over 2,000.

In Victoria County two of the Alliance candidates and one ONR candidate polled more than 3,000 votes.

Chambers' Low Profile

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Jeff Hackett]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers's virtual absence from the campaign trail was not a contributory factor in the ruling People's National Movement's (PNM) shock battering in Monday's Local Government polls, Horace Grant, public relations officer, said yesterday.

Mr. Grant said in a telephone interview:

"No way. It is not a contributory factor. He set his terms down and they worked towards that."

Mr. Chambers, political leader, only spoke at a rally held in Maracas/St. Joseph early in the campaign. He attended the "Youth Quake" organised by the PNM Youth League at the Kay Donna Drive-In Cinema two Sundays ago but did not speak.

Otherwise, he reportedly did not appear at any other meeting.

NOT SATISFIED

At the party's election convention one month ago, Mr. Chambers expressed dissatisfaction with the

original slate of candidates.

And political observers believe that this was the motivating factor in his deciding not to appear on PNM platforms throughout the country but to leave this chore up cabinet members and parliamentary backbenchers.

Mr. Grant admitted that a number of people in the party did not work as hard as they ought to have done and this contributed to the reversals.

He also felt that the Opposition campaigned very hard.

"If you cannot have a proper machinery on election day, crapaud smoke your pipe," Mr. Grant stressed.

"PNM," he added, "has to tighten up anyhow."

He concluded: "I think the PNM will have to continue working. We are a powerful organisation. We have the people to assist us."

Party top brass are expected to meet this week to hold a post-mortem on the results.

Robinson Evaluation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH

MR. A.N.R. Robinson, leader of the Democratic Action Congress and member of the National Alliance, said yesterday that Monday's Local Government elections was a call for change by the people.

The people have spoken very clearly in this election and it is a call for change," he said in a statement from his office in Scarborough.

"While the Government remains the government, it is bound to heed the voice of the electorate democratically expressed," said the DAC leader.

The DAC is part of the three-party alliance which won control of six of the County Councils in Trinidad in Monday's elections. Mr Robinson and his colleagues from the Tobago House of Representatives appeared on Alliance platforms during the campaign.

Tobago, which was granted greater powers over its internal affairs through the Tobago House of Assembly Act in September 1980, is not due for elections until late next year.

Mr Robinson said that Monday's elections was most significant for a number of reasons.

Firstly, "unlike other local government elections it was contested on national issues.

"These were corruption in the government, inefficiency in the public service and the waste in public expenditure and the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

Local Government issues, he said, were, therefore, subordinated second.

Secondly, continued Mr Robinson, "the population has shown that given the opportunity it is prepared to be unequivocal in the expression of the popular will.

"This opportunity was given them by the electoral accommodation among the opposition parties.

"The accommodation clarified the nature of the contest and provided the means by which people's voices could be expressed and not stifled by irrelevant considerations such as race."

Finally, said the DAC leader, "this election has opened up the politics of Trinidad and Tobago to new and more healthy dynamics.

"I expect that the first response would be some resignations from the government and, ultimately, it is the Government itself that is in issue," he said.

Panday Warning

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Basdeo Panday yesterday issued a warning to Government that if any attempts were made to withhold funds for development works among other things in the Opposition-controlled county councils, those attempts would be met with massive mobilisation of the people.

"We say if the Government decides to withhold funds we shall expose them to the public for their spitefulness and vindictiveness," he declared.

Mr. Panday said: "We shall never let that stop us. If we have to raise funds through public functions in the villages in order to buy asphalt to pave the roads, we shall do it," he said.

The Opposition leader said that their plan now, seeing that they have emerged victorious in controlling the majority of the county councils, "is to provide the people with the sort of services for which the elected us.

"We are absolutely sure that the PNM-controlled Central Government will do all in its power to prevent the Opposition-controlled Local Government bodies from functioning efficiently. We are not worried because if that is done, we shall mobilise the people in every village and every street to do the work which is necessary," he stated.

Panday on Opposition Unity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

CONTINUED unity among the opposition political parties in Trinidad and Tobago is very important. That unity was reflected in Monday's Local Government elections when the Alliance and Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) teamed up in what has been described as an "accommodation" to do battle against the ruling People's National Movement.

The Alliance took control of the majority of county councils with the ONR breaking through PNM barriers throughout, winning seats traditionally held by the PNM.

Stating this yesterday was Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, while speaking on political unity.

Mr. Panday believed that all

social organisations (including political organisations) are organic in nature and, therefore, how they go, how fast they go and in what direction they go, will depend on how fast the people are prepared to let them go.

"You can only lead people from where they are and not from where they ought to have been," Mr.

Panday declared.

He said: "We shall therefore have to sense the mood of the people and create the institution which they are ready to have at this time. That's why we presented an accommodation in the Local Government elections because the people were ready for it."

Mr. Panday said that unity will continue.

ONR Expectations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

THE RESULTS of the 1983 Local Government election confirm the Organisation for National Reconstruction as the vanguard party for change in Trinidad and Tobago.

ONR Political Leader Karl Hudson Phillips said yesterday: "We have made a break-through in spite of an inefficient and corrupt electoral process," he said in a post-election message.

Mr Hudson-Phillips said:

"It is quite clear that the country has expressed an opinion on the performance of the government during the last 22 months.

"It is a clear expression of dissatisfaction.

"The people have also clearly indicated their demand for new blood, and new ideas, and a desire for forward movement. One is justified in interpreting the mood of the people as the beginning of the end of the PNM.

"We are prepared to carry on the fight for efficiency and honesty of purpose.

"It is clear that the ONR has established itself in the minds of the people as a progressive force bringing with in the wind of change. We are proud of our achievements.

"We are humble and determined. We shall never surrender nor permit the people to surrender their right to a decent and honest government

"We know that this victory could not have been possible without the support of the people. We realise that many of our problems result from the irrelevance of one-party rule in Trinidad and Tobago these past 27 years. Our ultimate aim is to eliminate poverty and injustice in Trinidad and Tobago.

LASTING PEACE

"Trinidad and Tobago is now poised for its next political cycle. It is a cycle that started with Cipriani, then Butler followed by Eric Williams. The country is now on the point of making a momentous decision.

"Our intention is to stimulate a peaceful and democratic revolution in Trinidad and Tobago and to join hands with all sectors in the society for a just and lasting peace for the preservation of our democracy.

"Our local government campaign was also the beginning of our campaign for the next general elections. We do not intend to let up or to stop. We will continue to drive forward.

"Finally we must thank the people for having the courage of their convictions in making an effective political demand for change"

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

THE POPULAR vote in all but three of the 120 constituencies in Monday's Local Government elections was 20,900 more in favour of the National Alliance/Organisation for National Reconstruction "accommodation" than those received by the ruling People's National Movement.

Overall, 106,968 persons voted for the PNM in the 120 constituencies the party contested while for the ONR the vote was 47,415 in 66 constituencies, and for the Alliance, which contested 47 seats, the vote was 80,456.

Another 11,786 voted for the National Joint Action Committee and 1,468 voted for Independents, showing that a total of 141,125 persons voted against the PNM.

Details were available from the Central Electoral Office yesterday for only 117 of the 120 constituencies. Final figures were still to be supplied by returning officers for the remaining three — Mallick-Caledonia and Newalloville in St. George West, and Caura in St. George East — although the winners were declared and letters sent out by the Electoral Office for the winning candidates in all the constituencies to facilitate meetings of the Councils and the swearing-in ceremonies due to begin today.

Election of Aldermen, Chairmen and Mayors of the various councils are to follow.

The results show that an average of 33.6 per cent of the electorate voted on Monday.

However, while the vote was close in the municipalities, in Caroni and Victoria the Alliance and ONR together in the accommodation defeated the PNM 2.5 to one and two to one respectively with voting estimated at 42.6 per cent and 43.2 per cent in the respective counties.

Overall, the Alliance won 40 seats, the ONR 26 and the PNM 54 with the PNM controlling the municipalities — Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, Arima and Point Fortin — and the St. George West County Council. The other six county councils went to the Opposition parties of the Alliance with the ONR having membership in all but the Point Fortin Borough Council where all the seats were won by the PNM.

The National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) did not win a single seat.

The election figures show that while the PNM won control in Port-of-Spain with an overall 7,191 votes, the ONR, which contested ten of the 12 seats, gained 5,125 votes while the National Joint Action Committee gained 1,324. The PNM won eight seats and the ONR the remaining four.

The votes for both the ONR and NJAC were 842 under the total PNM votes.

In San Fernando, the PNM polled 5,075 votes in the nine seats, the ONR tallied 3,619 in seven, the Alliance 453 in one and NJAC 661 in the seven seats contested. Together, the parties doing battle against the PNM tallied 4,075, or 943 less than the PNM which retained control with six of the nine seats (losing three to the ONR).

CLOSE IN ARIMA

In Arima, the contest was closer where the PNM won four of the seven seats. The party tallied 2,705 votes while the ONR, which won the other three, had 2,255 votes. NJAC had 509 and an Independent 99. The result showed that the popular vote against the PNM was 158 more than the PNM received.

Point Fortin was all PNM showing 3,189 votes for the ruling party a strong showing for the NJAC with 916 votes while the ONR got 885 votes.

The PNM, in 17 of the 19 St. George West seats for which figures were available yesterday, registered a two-to-one victory against the Opposition parties, retaining control of the Council.

The PNM polled 28,689 votes while the ONR tallied 11,130, NJAC 2,479 and the Independent 38 — a tally of 15,042 under that of the vote for the PNM.

Total voting in other councils showed:

ST. GEORGE EAST: PNM 10,836; ONR 5,413; Alliance 6,887; NJAC 754; Ind. 223.

ST. ANDREW-ST. DAVID: PNM 5,339; ONR 2,598; Alliance 4,585; NJAC 608.

NARIVA-MAYARO: PNM 3,472; ONR 1,845; Alliance 3,923; NJAC 542.

CARONI: PNM 10,030; ONR 2,571; Alliance 24,031; NJAC 664.

VICTORIA: PNM 17,065; ONR 7,965; Alliance 25,715; NJAC 2,124; Ind. 699.

ST. PATRICK: PNM 10,580; ONR 2,374 Alliance 14,862; NJAC 1,205.

The highest poll for the NJAC came in the Ste. Madeleine — Cedar Hill-Claxton Bay area where the party gained 727 votes in a straight fight with the PNM which polled 1,095 votes.

Three candidates — all in Victoria — got more than 3,000 votes. They were from the Alliance and the ONR.

An official of the Elections and Boundaries Commission issued an appeal yesterday for candidates to submit their election expense returns immediately to prevent last minute delays and problems "usually experienced".

ONR/Alliance Aldermen

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

SURUJRATTAN RAMBACHAN, deputy political leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), and Mervyn Assam, a member of the ONR's executive, have been tipped, to be the chairmen of the St. Patrick and the St George East County Councils, respectively.

Mr Rambachan and Mr Assam, both of whom did not contest Monday's historic Local Government polls, are expected to be nominated aldermen tomorrow when the councils meet.

Both men unsuccessfully contested the 1981 General Election. Mr Rambachan being a candidate in the Oropouche constituency and Mr Assam running in St Joseph.

MEETING IN SQUARE

The Alliance/ONR combination ousted the People's National Movement (PNM) in both councils: in St George East Alliance ONR won seven of the 12 seats with the PNM gaining the remaining five while in St Patrick Alliance/ONR won seven of the eleven seats, the PNM winning the remainder.

The Alliance/ONR accommodation has won six of the seven county councils with the PNM retaining the St George West County Council and the four municipalities — the Port of Spain City Council, and the San Fernando, Arima and Point Fortin Borough Councils.

Tonight, beginning at 7 o'clock, Mr ANR Robinson, Chairman of the Trinidad House of Assembly (THA), Mr Basdeo Pandey, leader of the United Labour Front (ULF), Mr Kari Hadson-Phillips, leader of the ONR, Mr Assam, and Mr Clive Pantin, will speak at a Woodford Square meeting.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago can brace itself for "extremely interesting politics" within the next 12 months.

Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) Political Leader Karl Hudson-Phillips made this prediction at the party's post-Local Government news conference in Port of Spain yesterday.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips also warned Central Government would be committing political suicide and inviting "politics of confrontation" if it attempted to "punish" the electorate for exercising their democratic right during Monday's Local Government elections.

An ONR/National Alliance combined effort, termed an "electoral accommodation", toppled the ruling People's National Movement from controlling the Local Government system for the next three years.

With Mr. Hudson-Phillips were ONR Chairman Roy Augustus; Deputy Political Leader Suruj Rambachan; Mervyn Assam, Lennox Raphael, Monica Carter and Neville Hordatt.

Asked whether he felt the ruling PNM would call a general election before 1986, when it is due, as a result of the defeat at Monday's polls, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the ONR had no power to call such an exercise, but he added with a smile:

"The indications are that we should have extremely interesting politics in the next twelve months."

He said the accommodation pact went a long way in achieving Monday's victory and issues such as corruption and the Korean housing contract made the people come out against the PNM.

Opening the session, Mr. Hudson-Phillips, S.C., thanked the news media for the coverage given the party during the campaign and revealed the ONR's strategy for the hustings.

This included "successfully neutralising the Political Leader of the PNM" (Prime Minister George Chambers), and maintaining the presence of the ONR on a national scale.

One important feature of Monday's results, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said, was destruction of the idea that the PNM could not be beaten in areas other than traditional "Opposition" districts.

FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

He felt the ONR could have come out Monday with a more enhanced position but the party suffered because of financial constraints and deliberate obstacles on polling day.

Asked about future projections of the ONR/National Alliance pact, the ONR chief, while not committing himself, said the pace of the pact would be dictated in due course but there was "goodwill all around."

Regretting the absence of "positive leadership" in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said this was needed now more than ever because of the crises facing the country.

Asked what would be the ONR's tactic if Central Government appeared to be giving the Opposition-controlled councils "pressure", Mr. Hudson-Phillips first said that could be done by giving the excuse that because of the country's economic position there was not enough money to be released to those bodies.

But he argued:

"To do that would be committing political suicide and courting the politics of confrontation. The ONR has devised a strategy to deal with that eventuality."

"And the population, after having exercised their democratic right in a positive manner on Monday, will not stand idly by and accept punishment for exercising their democratic choice."

Mr. Rambachan said Local Government elections were fought in 1983 unlike any other before, in that the ONR took to the electorate national issues such as corruption, the economic state of the country, unemployment and housing.

Replying to another question, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said it seemed the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) which failed to win a seat in the elections, was an "undercover agent" of the PNM.

He said NJAC told the electorate during the campaign if they did not vote NJAC they should vote PNM.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips added:

"It seems NJAC is an undercover arm of the PNM... they are being maintained for political mischief."

INCIDENTS MAR PREELECTION RALLIES AS PARTIES SEEK SUPPORT

Disruption of Alliance Rally

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

IT RAINED bottles, stones and rotten eggs at a National Alliance political meeting at St. Margaret's Claxton Bay, Tuesday night.

Consequently, Opposition Senator Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, who said he was struck by the missiles, had called on National Security Minister John Donaldson to investigate the matter.

Dr. Basdeo, in a telephone report to the "Trinidad Guardian" yesterday said the incident was sparked by the behaviour of "four paid persons" who came intent on mashing up the meeting.

He explained that the Alliance crowd which held the meeting in support of its candidate, Vernon Hosein, contesting the Plaisance Park/Claxton Bay seat, earlier staged a successful session at Union, in the district.

Dr. Basdeo continued:

"From the beginning of our second meeting the four paid thugs were heckling, something which we had no quarrel with since healthy heckling is part of the political campaign scene.

"However, it became obvious that something was wrong because one of the 'gang of four' came to the microphone and began abusing the Alliance and myself, and singing the chants of a political party (which the senator named).

SPAT UPON

"He also spat upon me. At that stage I called on the police officers

present to remove the men so we could continue the meeting."

Senator Basdeo claimed that the Police did not respond. The men returned to the platform and repeated their action. Again he said he asked the Police for protection but none came.

The senator added:

"One of our supporters could not take it any longer and he pushed the man away."

"Immediately the four ran opposite the road and threw stones, eggs and bottles at the meeting. I was struck and so were other persons. The items thrown were taken from stacks ... we all saw the stacks from which the men were pelting.

"I received injury to my shoulder and knee and had to be pushed away to safety."

The senator said it was only at this stage that one man was apprehended by the Police.

Alleging that the man was a friend of some of the police present, Dr. Basdeo explained:

"I am calling on the Commissioner of Police through the Minister of National Security to ensure the thug is charged and appears in court.

"It is now evident that certain people who obviously cannot face the electorate with issues are now resorting to violence in order to intimidate the electorate from going to the polls on August 8."

ONR Accusation Against PNM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

THE ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) has accused the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) government of trying to make the local government election a non-issue.

In a statement presented to the Press at a conference held at its headquarters in Port of Spain yesterday, the ONR said the Government took four months after the expiration of the county councils' term of office to set a date for the election.

The statement said that during this time, issues arose that were not favourable to the government which forced the postponement of the elections.

It listed these principally as the John O'Halloran scandal, the Deyalsingh affair and the temporary presence of ONR leader Karl Hudson-Phillips in the Senate.

According to the party, choosing a date during the annual August vacations was a definite attempt to secure a low poll.

The statement also claimed that the PNM campaign demonstrated a

lack of issues in that it has published a long manifesto which was an indictment on local government under the PNM because none of the things had been accomplished by local government bodies.

"Little attention can be paid to the government's draft published on local government. In politics there is no such thing as a draft policy statement. One either has a policy or not," said the ONR.

On the other hand, the ONR's position was consistent with its 1981 manifesto, the statement said.

The party further stated that community groups and councils have been stifled by politicians and have not been permitted to play any useful role in community building.

The ONR said it sees the election as mainly about two things: elected representatives who will not be muzzled by a blind party line and putting the Government on notice that the population is totally dissatisfied with the performance of the Prime Minister and his government over the last 22 months.

NJAC Manifesto

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 14

[Text]

THE NATIONAL Joint Action Committee (NJAC) has placed the emphasis on people participation in every area of the political process as part of its manifesto for the Local Government elections.

The manifesto, released on Monday when the party presented its 104 candidates for the 1984 Local Government elections at the Queen's Park Savannah, stated that people participation must incorporate the mass education of the local constituency.

"Meaningful participation cannot take place in an atmosphere of ignorance," the manifesto stated.

"The institutionalisation of people's participation should be operational at the local constituency level with the establishment of local constituency councils.

The NJAC manifesto drew attention to consultation, accountability, redefinition of the role of the councillor, economic development, pointing to objectives, food agriculture and fisheries, job creation — its

protection and maintenance utilisation and development of human resources, housing construction technology and finance.

On social development, it touched on involvement in services, drugs and drug abuse, child care, care for the aged and national security, while on educational development it pointed to the need for redefinition of education and the teacher, community participation, child education, adult and moral education, and at the same time drew attention to library facilities, institutions, cultural development and sport.

The manifesto stated that people must be eternally vigilant in order to ensure "that their lives will not continue to be dictated by elites and bureaucrats."

The manifesto stated: "NJAC is not of the view that the people are not ready to determine their destiny and recognises that they must be prepared for the exercise of Government."

It went on: "It is in this light that the establishment of the local constituency council as the supreme decision making authority in local government should be viewed."

The manifesto stated that the practice of consultation will "give life to people's participation because it affords the people the opportunity to make an input into the decision-making process."

"All efforts should be made by the local constituency council to promote the practice of accountability so that it would become an integral part of our political culture."

Referring to the redefinition of the role of councillor, the NJAC stated that the local councillor should be viewed essentially as a servant of the people. His functions should not only be confirmed to

political and administrative duties, but should spread to the areas of family life, marriage, sport, community development, education, etc.

The NJAC feels, too, that "it is imperative that constituency councils involve themselves in the ques-

tion of services and take up the issues as they arise to enable community development to take place.

Drawing attention to drugs and drug abuse, the NJAC said that the problem was of national importance and constituency councils should be concerned with the issue and there should be a programme of drug education so that people could understand the implications of drugs and drug abuse on individuals.

On national security, the NJAC said that the local constituency councils should inject and popularise a different concept of national security which lays more emphasis on economic, social, emotional, psychological and spiritual security.

The councils, it was stated, should address themselves to the question of a reintegration of the role of the policeman or soldier in the context of our concept of national security.

Among the objectives of educational development as outlined by the NJAC is to develop a vision in the people and to develop a sense of belonging to a nation and of self worth and dignity in the individual.

Polling Regulations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 16

[Text]

ALL MEMBERS of the Police Service and the Special Reserve Police are required to report for duty from 12.00 noon on Sunday 7 until 12.00 noon on Tuesday in connection with the Local Government Elections.

The local government elections will be held on Monday.

Employers have been asked to grant special reserve policemen the necessary time off.

Police officers who are on pre-retirement leave or pre-resignation leave are not required to report for duty.

REGISTER VEHICLES

ALL CANDIDATES and election agents of Candidates in the local government elections must register motor vehicles to be used as electoral vehicles.

Vehicles will be regis-

tered at the Police Divisional Headquarters in the particular electoral district.

The First Division officer in charge of each Police Division has been designated the appropriate police officer for this registration.

BAN ON ALCOHOL

THE COMMISSIONER of Police has said that no liquor should be sold or given away at any place licensed under the Liquor Licenses Act, and situated in any electoral district at any time between the opening and closing of the poll on polling day, Monday, August 8.

Presiding officers, deputy presiding officers and poll clerks should not consume any liquor on polling day within any polling station.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

MR A.N.R. ROBINSON, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, said at Harris Promenade San Fernando, on Thursday night that "you simply cannot reform the society from the bottom. You have got to start from the top."

Mr Robinson said that Trinidad had now become "the biggest joke in the Caribbean, and what is utterly ridiculous is the fact that the Attorney General does not know to whom he must direct his own letter of resignation. It takes the Court to tell him. Further, the Ministers of the Government, while happy to take credit when some things are good, refuse to accept the responsibility for errors made. Rather than accept responsibility, also express apologies for errors, each one tries to put the blame for his own flagrant incompetence on the outside world."

He said that the country was now saddled with inefficiency and mismanagement and he asked the San Fernando audience: "What values, what principles do you teach your children at home today? The principle that honesty is the best policy? The principles of truth, and honesty? The principle of integrity? How, therefore, are you going to reconcile what you teach them at home and have them enter into the broader society in which each such principle is openly violated, into a society that is totally contradictory?"

"That is why the local government elections are so extremely important, because you simply cannot have your local government bodies functioning effectively and honestly when at the highest level there is incompetence, inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement of the highest order."

TIME FOR CHANGE

"We in Tobago have understood that for quite some time and the Tobago House of Assembly directed several of its members — Dr Jeff Davidson, Mr Hochoy Charles, Dr J D Elder, Miss Pamela Nicholson and myself — to come to Trinidad and give you the message. The time has come to change. We have broken them very positively in Tobago. We have beaten them once."

"We have beaten them twice. We have beaten them three times and now that they have been positively and decisively broken in To-

bago, they are using the illegal instrument of breaking the law in an attempt to frustrate the just aspirations of the people of Tobago and the aspirations of the House of Assembly. We do not intend to let them get away with that, because if they by chance succeed, they will certainly do the same thing in Trinidad."

"Your chance has come. Your chance to change comes on Monday, and we in Tobago hope, fervently, that you make good that chance. Tobago cannot wait upon you for much longer."

Mr Robinson, who was speaking at an election meeting called by the National Alliance said that the late Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams was "good in the anti-colonial period but the moment Trinidad and Tobago gained its Independence Dr Williams was lost, he was floundering and groping in the dark, he was totally unsuitable for leadership in the post — Independence era."

He said he had discovered that quite early and had written a book about it, a book now being used at several universities.

He reminded the gathering that he was a foundation member of the People's National Movement and when he resigned "I did not run away, like O'Halloran. I stood my ground, gave reasons for my resignation, the publication of which Dr Williams stifled by filing not one, but two writs, and utterly refused to go to Court in pursuance of those writs. They were merely filed to prevent public expression of the reasons given for my resignation."

GRENADA AIRPORT

Said Mr Robinson: "Then I told Dr Williams I want him to go to Court, Dr Williams said: 'That on God face you will not see'. And when I told him I wanted to get in the witness box to cross-examine him, Dr Williams's response was: 'over my dead body.' Do you know the man dead indeed and the matter was never raised in Court."

Mr Robinson said that while he was no lover of Mr Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of the Peoples' Revolutionary Government of Grenada, at least Mr Bishop was able to build a first-class International Airport. "Our own Prime Minister and Government cannot even build an airstrip."

He said that a contract for repairing the airstrip in Tobago given two years ago had not yet been started and in true PNM fashion, the Government was losing thousands upon thousands of dollars on a hotel which was being managed by a PNM member who had neither the qualification, the expertise nor the experience in hotel management "but to the PNM Government it really does not matter."

He said that similarly, the Government had spent vast sums on the MV Tobago which still could not sail between Trinidad and Tobago, and although it paid for two ships, it had obtained none.

Tapia House Chairman's Speech

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
ANOTHER analysis of the economic crisis into which Trinidad and Tobago "has been plunged by the inefficient, leaderless Government" was made in San Fernando on Thursday night by Mr. Michael Harris, executive member of the National Alliance and Chairman of the Tapia House Movement.

Mr. Harris was speaking at a meeting called by the Alliance in the local government election campaign.

Mr. Harris in a scorching indictment of the Government, described it as totally incompetent and unable to take the country out of the mire.

He said that over the past few weeks he had been speaking in various places on the platform of the National Alliance and "I am satisfied that something new has entered into the campaign, something tremendous, something of import and positively exciting."

He said that at Tunapuna a couple nights before he had seen a massive crowd at an Alliance meeting, perhaps one of the very biggest crowds he had been privileged to see at a political meeting at any local government election.

At Rio Claro, and later on at Princes Town it was the same thing -- large crowds to hear the message of the Alliance "and I am satisfied that a new wind is blowing steadily throughout the land."

DROP IN REVENUE

"I do not think it could have come at a more appropriate time and it is up to the people to accept that wind of change and move together so that we can emerge as a unified people starting afresh to build a Trinidad and Tobago in which we can all stand proudly and say this is my land where in fact every creed and race do find an equal place.

The Tapia leader said that "the fundamental economic crisis which we face today and its implications for the future are of significant proportion." He spoke of the revenue which the Government said would be lost as a result of the drop in crude oil prices; the loss of revenue from the sale of petroleum products on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States; the loss of revenue as a result of recent tax relief to oil companies, although no provision

was made for Amoco and marine oil production; the loss of revenue from unemployment, the disappearance of several small businesses that came onto the scene as a result of the boom in the oil industry, indicating that by the most conservative estimate, the loss would be in the vicinity of \$2.5b in 1983.

Mr. Harris said that the Government could either find that sum from a reduction of recurrent expenditure which for 1983 was \$5.6b (60 per cent of which represented wages and salaries) or from capital expenditure which for the year was budgeted as \$3.6b or nearly \$4b.

As a further source, the Government might borrow from the international lending agencies which, because they were forced to "re-schedule payments totalling \$28b owed by 26 countries, were not particularly keen to make loan as readily available as they did when there was an excess of money flowing from the OPEC countries.

The Tapia Chairman asked the crowd: "When you do not have money to pay your workmen, what would you do?"

The crowd shouted: "Fire them." And he said: "Fire them indeed, an exercise that would further increase unemployment, and all the consequent difficulties on the family and the nation such a situation would entail."

He warned the gathering that survival depended upon hard work and a serious return to the manufacture of local products. "We produced our own food at one time, but the PNM pushed us into a colonial economy which means that we purchase the things we consume and we produce the things we do not consume, to the extent that today we have been spending \$900m on food imports. It is fortunate that Trinidad and Tobago is not at war with anyone for if we were, they did not have to fire their guns at us, they merely had to ensure that not a single ship entered the Bocas.

"Can you imagine what would happen if the ships bringing all the large containers with food to Trinidad and Tobago were sunk? What would we do?"

The crowd replied: "Eat the PNM members."

He said because of those serious questions, the local government elections assumed tremendous importance.

ONR Charge of Police Harassment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

DR. ROMESH Mootoo, Vice-President of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) complained at Harris Promenade, San Fernando, on Thursday night that a corporal and constable at San Fernando Police Headquarters refused him permission to use the telephone to call his home.

Dr. Mootoo, guest speaker at the meeting of the National Alliance in the local government election campaign, said: "I was humiliated by the corporal and constable (calling their names) merely because I wanted to use the telephone."

"That eh for you, that is only for Police," he said he was told when he indicated that he merely wanted to

advise Mrs. Mootoo that he was at the Promenade and all was well.

"That is yet another demonstration of PNMism, the sort of PNMism with which this country has been saddled for so many years and more particularly in the last 15 years," he said.

The former Senator said the local government elections were of extreme importance and he hoped that the people of San Fernando would take a genuine stand against corruption and inefficiency and place a new team of dedicated individuals into the council so that they could demand seriously the restoration of authority to the San Fernando Borough Council.

Acid-Throwing Incident

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

TEN people received burns about the body when eggs filled with acid were thrown into the crowd at a political meeting at Mc Bean Junction, Couva, around 9 p.m. on Friday.

Mr. Desmond Baxter, a former county councillor and People's National Movement (PNM) candidate for McBean/Freeport in tomorrow's local government elections was addressing the crowd when the eggs suddenly came crashing into the backs and other parts of

the bodies of his supporters including his wife and 18 year-old daughter, bringing a premature end to the meeting.

The injured were taken to the Couva District Hospital where they were examined and treated by a doctor, who said that tests showed the contents of the eggs to be acid.

Items of clothing taken from the injured by the police will be sent to the government chemist for analysis.

[Text]

THE RULING People's National Movement which has been in control of all the Local Government bodies in Trinidad for the past three years, is being challenged by the Opposition parties today for control of the councils.

From 6.00 a.m. Trinidad voters will go to the polls to elect 120 councillors to represent them at local government level.

The more than 1,200 polling stations will remain open until 6.00 p.m. and any person in the compound of the polling station at the time will be allowed to vote.

A total of 342 persons have been nominated, with the ruling People's National Movement being the only party to nominate candidates for all the constituencies... 120.

In efforts to provide a stiff challenge to the PNM, the official Opposition in Parliament (the Alliance) comprising the United Labour Front, the Democratic Action Congress and the Tapia House Movement has joined forces in an accommodation with the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), putting up together 113 candidates — the ONR fielding 66 and the ULF 47.

The arrangement was geared for a straight fight with the PNM. However, the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), which had been naming its candidates long before the date of elections was announced, put in 103 candidates, making a three-way fight in the majority of the constituencies.

In addition, there are five independents and a lone candidate from the Curepe United People's Committee.

The political parties were active yesterday as they put the final touches to their campaigns.

Prime Minister George Chambers was in his St. Ann's Constituency campaigning in Santa Cruz at a public rally on Saturday evening.

UP AND DOWN

When the PNM held its convention and announced the candidates, the Prime Minister, charged the constituency representatives with the responsibility for conducting the campaign for the PNM candidates in the electoral areas.

He, like the other elected representatives, campaigned for the candidates falling within the constituency.

The Organisation for National Reconstruction roamed up and down the country with a battery of speakers led by the Political Leader Karl Hudson-Phillips.

The Alliance, with Opposition Leader Basdeo Pandey at the helm, moved throughout its strongholds, particularly in Central and South Trinidad, explaining the reasons for the accommodation and telling why the Opposition should be allowed to take control of the local government bodies.

NJAC's leader, Mr. Makandaal Daaga, accompanied by his lieutenants, took the campaign "to the people".

Yesterday all the parties held motorcades and spot meetings throughout the country.

The PNM motorcades remained in the different constituencies while the motorcades of the ONR gathered in the afternoon in the Diego Martin area for a final call to the electorate.

The Alliance concentrated in Central and South.

Throughout the day all the leading speakers from the parties were in the field in the last-minute bid to win the votes of the 737,653 electors.

As regards preparation, Mr. Bertel Gittens, Public Relations Officer of the Elections and Boundaries Commission, said everything was ready for the elections. The Commission had done everything in spite of short notice. It was now left to the electorate.

Mr. Gittens said the Commission had the required staff for polling day and all arrangements were made for polling stations.

IN POLICE VEHICLES

The Elections and Boundaries Commission has also made provision for the supervision of the poll to be undertaken by senior officials.

Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Alan Reece, will be at the Central Electoral Office, Salvatori Building, Port-of-Spain, with another Commissioner, Dr. Stephen Moosai Maharaj.

One of the commissioners, Mr. Oswald Wilson, is out of the country while another, Mr. Simeon Alexander, is a patient at the Port-of-Spain General Hospital.

The fifth Commissioner was retired Judge Karl De La Bastide who died last month.

Senior Officers of the Commission who will travel throughout the country with police vehicles, keeping touch through "intercom" with the Central Office are Mr. Egbert Solomon, Deputy Chief Elections Officer (St. George East and West); Mr. Gilbert Morris, Senior Supervisor (San Fernando and surroundings); Mrs. Iris Thorne, Assistant Elections Officer, Caroni and Central Trinidad, Mr. Randolph Hyland, Senior Supervisor, St. Andrew-St. David and Mr. Kenrick Billquin, Senior Supervisor, St. Patrick-Victoria.

Security Arrangements

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

TIGHT security has been instituted by the Ministry of National Security throughout Trinidad for today's local government elections. Police divisions have been reinforced by fully-armed policemen in uniform who have been posted to the various polling stations.

All Special Reserve policemen were called out for full-time duties from midday yesterday until midday tomorrow to augment the Police Service.

The Special Tactical Unit, Flying Squad, Special Task Force, Special Strike Force, Narcotics Squad, Stolen Vehicles Squad and Robbery Squad will be at full strength watching banks and business places.

Members of the Defence Force are on stand-by duties.

Police Commissioner Randolph Burroughs has appealed for calm, tolerance and non-violence on election day.

He has drawn the attention of spirituous liquor dealers to the regulation banning the selling, or offering and exposing for sale, or even giving away intoxicating liquor at any premises between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. today.

Anyone who contravenes this law is liable to be fined \$1,500 or in default six months' hard labour.

Also, it is an offence for anyone to consume intoxicating liquor within a polling station. The penalty upon conviction is \$400 or three months' hard labour.

REPORTAGE ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING TOBAGO

Quarry Price Increase

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Aug 83 p 6

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly has increased the selling price of washed and crushed aggregate from its Goldsborough Quarry from \$26 to \$45 per cubic metre. Announcing this at last week's meeting of the Assembly, Mr. Regis Caruth, Secretary for Marketing said that the Assembly had been losing money selling at the old price.

The quarry is operated by the Works Division of the Assembly and supplies aggregate to small builders and other members of the public in addition to meeting its own requirements.

Assemblyman Caruth said that the cost of operating the quarry had risen considerably and the Assembly found it was no longer economical to sell aggregate at \$26.

He carried out a survey of the aggregate market and found that the price in Tobago from private sources was \$60 per cubic metre.

In Trinidad the price varied from \$60 to \$65 while National Quarries sold at \$22 to \$30 per cubic metre. But National Quarries, he added, was reviewing upward prices.

The Assembly decided to move its price up to \$45, which was "reasonable and a price which citizens in Tobago should be able to afford," he added.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 16

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH: GOVERNMENT has finally released the sum of \$176,000 to the Tobago House of Assembly to pay contractors for preliminary planning work done on the proposed \$4.5 million marketing complex at Sangster Hill, Scarborough.

Disclosing this, Mr. Regis Caruth, Secretary for Marketing at the Assembly, said the money had been applied for since December last year.

The delay in the release seriously hampered progress on the complex, he said "but now we have been given the money to pay the contractors, we will be pushing ahead with our plans".

The Assembly, according to Mr. Caruth, has now applied for the release of an additional \$1.5 million to actually start construction work.

He hoped this money would be released soon

to permit work on the first phase of the complex to start towards the end of this month.

He was optimistic, he said, in view of the fact that the late release of money for the Assembly was one of the matters discussed between Prime Minister George Chambers and Mr. ANR Robinson, Chairman of the Assembly, at their recent meeting at the Crown Reef Hotel.

A joint communique at the end of that meeting stated "The Prime Minister of Finance undertook to look into the question of releases for assembly projects with a view to expediting action."

WAY BEHIND

The Sangster Hill project is way behind schedule and this may have an effect on the final cost, taking into consideration inflation over the period of delay, according to Mr. Caruth.

The second phase of the project, which should have been due for completion in December next year, involves construction of the sub-structure with

accommodation on the ground floor.

"Everything now depends on the release by the Ministry of Finance of funds to start construction. Once we get the money and we start building we hope that we will be able to achieve occupation in about 18 months", he added.

Meanwhile, the Assembly has asked for \$10 million for development of its marketing structure in 1984. This is to include expansion of the Scarborough market to provide kiosks to replace the wooden huts erected by vendors outside the market. Work on this project has started from 1983 funds.

Also planned is establishment of mini-markets for such centres as Charlotteville, Blenheim, Plymouth, Richmond and Bloody Bay.

Mr. Caruth explained that in addition to providing accommodation for wholesale and agricultural vendors, these mini-markets would also serve as points of collection and distribution for the marketing division of the Assembly.

Improved Phone Service

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 7 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

TOBAGO is to get an additional 400 telephones under a \$5 million short term development plan which will be completed by year-end.

Scarborough is earmarked for 300 of those new lines with Roxborough getting the other 100.

Mr. Desmond Telemaque, Tobago Manager of the Telephone Company, stressed that this expansion programme is apart from a long-term project planned for the island under Telco overall development plan.

"We are concentrating at the moment on providing additional

telephones in these two areas where small businessmen will be given priority treatment," he said.

At the moment, there are 1,500 telephones in Tobago. And within recent years, there has been a great demand for new phones.

The Scarborough project is expected to be completed by the end of October. Right now lines are being run and it is expected that connections and the installation of instruments will start soon.

The Roxborough programme is to come on stream by the end of December

or early January, said Mr. Telemaque. The erection of poles, from Bacolet Street in Scarborough to Roxborough started on June 22, he explained.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

"In addition, we are increasing the link between Tobago and Trinidad," said Mr. Telemaque. "Twenty new circuits are being put in ... ten from each island."

This means that a total of 44 calls could then be made at any one time between the two islands. At present the total is 34.

Telco is also paying attention to its rural development programme in Tobago. Mr. Telemaque said that pay stations are being put into the majority of villages, among them, Whim, Mt. Thomas, Speyside and Delaford.

"We are trying to reach the far corners of Tobago," said Mr. Telemaque. "We are hoping for at least two pay stations in each village until we can supply fully the telephone needs of the villages."

Magistrate's Absence

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

TOBAGO was without a magistrate all last week. And it is doubtful whether the situation will be any better this week.

Magistrate Yussuf Ibrahim, temporarily assigned to Tobago, was in Trinidad last week to conclude part-heard cases. Up to Friday it was not clear whether he would be back in Tobago this week.

Chief Magistrate Lincoln Dwarika came to Tobago on Tuesday to fill the breach. But he fell ill on Wednesday and returned to Trinidad without holding a single sitting of the Court.

The list of backlog cases on which Mr. Ibrahim was working hard to reduce, has climbed again. He assumed duties in Tobago three months ago and has been sitting long hours, on some occasions as late as 7 p.m.

He has also been reluctant to grant postponements to either the Police or the defence, and in many cases where there was no appearance of police witnesses, he dismissed them. In cases where defendants were properly before the Court and did not appear, he issued warrants.

The "Guardian" was reliably informed that the Police have protested to the Chief Magistrate, through the Police Association, the long hours they have to spend in the Tobago Court.

PROJECT TEAM

The Prosecutor, Inspector Renwick Bishop, has been particularly hard-pressed.

The Police Association last week sent a team of officials to Tobago to investigate the situation. The team's meeting with Chief Magistrate Dwarika was aborted through

the magistrate's illness.

Meanwhile, lawyers practising in Tobago are forming an association. They are not happy with the manner in which the administration of justice is treated in the island.

Tobago, they point out, has not been assigned a permanent magistrate. A permanent appointee, it is understood, has been resisting the posting.

The situation is not much better as far as the High Court is con-

cerned. No judge has sat in Tobago since April and criminal as well as civil cases have all been postponed.

The last judge to sit in Tobago was Mr. Justice des Isles who has been promoted to the Appeal Court.

"Tobago has been neglected in almost all areas of life," complained a senior member of the Bar. "But if this neglect is now to be extended to the administration of justice, then there seems little hope for us," he added.

[Editor's Note: Earlier, the 3 August TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, page 6, had carried this report on the situation:]

SCARBOROUGH:

THERE was no sitting of the Scarborough Magistrate's Court yesterday because there was no magistrate. Tobago Magistrate Yusuf Ibrahim was in Trinidad where he will spend the week disposing of cases he had started hearing before coming to Tobago. His place is to be taken by Chief Magistrate Lincoln Dwarika.

Mr Dwarika did not arrive from Trinidad in time for yesterday's sitting. All the cases listed were postponed. Mr. Dwarika is expected to preside from today.

The Scarborough Police reported yesterday a "relatively quiet time" over the Discovery weekend.

The Criminal Investigation Department under Inspector Ronald DeNoon said there were no serious crimes reported.

CSO: 3298/906

ROW OVER GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WITH KOREAN BUILDERS FLARES ANEW

Contractors' Opposition

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

OPPOSITION is mounting to the recent award to a South Korean firm of a \$278 million contract by Government to construct apartment blocks in Trinidad.

At a luncheon hosted by the General Contractors Association yesterday, the verbal onslaught was led by Mr. Emile Elias.

The meeting at which representatives of Joint Consultative Council for the building industry were guests questioned the wisdom of the contract at a time when the local building industry was in a crisis because of the downturn in the economy and experiences of similar contracts.

Mr. Elias, a past president of the association, told his Hilton Hotel audience:

"The local building industry is capable of building those apartments at a cheaper and faster rate if the contract is so structured to suit us" and reiterated the contract could be split up to facilitate the locals.

Stressing that no local firm could afford the \$75 million performance bond, Mr. Elias, Managing Director of the contracting firm in his name, continued:

"The local construction industry is ready to participate in the development of Trinidad and Tobago at all levels... we don't want to participate only at some levels."

He queried why the contract should have gone to a foreign firm when local consultants and contracting firms were underutilised and daily there were advertisements in the newspapers for the sale of building plants.

'UNACCEPTABLE'

Mr. Elias said his remarks should not be construed as being a political speech nor an attack on Government, but a way must be found to show Government that the move was totally unacceptable.

Acknowledging there must be some form of foreign input into the local construction industry he felt this should be at the level of top managerial expertise.

He said it must also be emphasised that there was no longer any shortages of materials of local resources — human and otherwise.

Mr. Winston Riley, President of the Engineering Society, said the industry was fighting the issue with the Ministry of Housing since November last year.

What was bothering, he added, was the absence of protest to the contract from the trade unions.

He continued:

"What is also disturbing is how could Government, after the distasteful experience of the government-to-government contracts, do this thing?"

"How could Government do such a thing when there is a downturn in the economy? I think this is the only country in the world where such a thing could happen."

Because of a mix-up in the arrangements for the luncheon, State Enterprises Minister Ronald Williams, his wife and their guest, Dr. Errol Hill, found themselves in the La Boucan room venue.

Minister Williams appeared not to have been listening to the speeches and kept up a lively discussion over lunch.

However, the fiery Mr. Lewis made sure the whole of the dining room heard him as he waded into Housing Minister Wendell Mottley for presiding over the "most dastardly act to affect the development of the national pride in Trinidad and Tobago — the awarding of the contract."

Stressing he had no doubt that the Government had the interest of the people at heart, he wondered whether Minister Mottley was not wrongly advised.

Mr. Lewis said:

"We should approach the Prime Minister for this is a national issue...the national status is in jeopardy and we have to work out something to save the nation from this affront."

It was hard to believe that at this time so much money was being given to foreigners.

Re-emphasising the sad state of the construction industry was Mr. Christopher De Montagnac, of the Geddes Grant Group of Companies.

Mr. De Montagnac explained that a company within the group — Panel Form Industries closed down last November because of lack of business.

He said the completely local firm which manufactured concrete pre-fab systems for the construction of residential units (not apartments) on more than one occasion approached the relevant government bodies pointing out the capabilities of the company.

Despite this no jobs came from Government and the firm had no choice but to close down. He described that as a sad occasion.

Minister's Defense

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

GOVERNMENT cannot put all its eggs in one basket and did not take a "hurry come decision" to award a contract to a South Korean firm for construction of 1,074 apartment buildings.

This was stated by Senator Wendell Mottley Minister of Housing and Resettlement yesterday when he explained that it was as a result of the discussions with the Trinidad and Tobago General Contractors Association and representations made that Government had drawn up the parallel programme for the construction of 754 units on four sites by local contractors and for the 1,074 units by international contractors.

He claimed that the "attack" on Government for awarding the contract to the South Koreans was a "well-timed political attack" and, drawing attention to the bid by the South Korean firm of Chin Hung International (South Korea) of \$278 million was \$100 million lower than what local firms had bid.

Drawing attention to experiences with local builders over the last few years, he said: "We have not hurry come to a particular decision." He pointed out that the capital budget for the Ministry of Housing and Resettlement for 1983 was \$444 million.

Senator Mottley said that with the exception of the sewerage treatment plant at Malabar and Valencia housing projects, all the housing projects under construction for the Ministry of Housing and Resettlement had been awarded to local contractors.

Senator Mottley made his comments at a Press conference at the Ministry yesterday.

Minister Mottley outlined the current status of housing construction in the country as detailed in the June monthly report of the Housing Task Force.

He said: "We as a Government have to be mindful of our responsibility to the people to provide the houses. We cannot put all our eggs in one basket."

He said that the attack on the housing programme and the fact that a contract was being awarded to the South Koreans was a "well-timed political attack." He said that he had no recourse but to say why the Ministry had to invite international tenders.

DATES NOT MET

Mr Mottley said: "As a result of discussions we held with the Contractors Association and representations made to us we drew up the parallel programme.

"We thought we had some compromise. Yesterday it became clear they were saying to us, 'To hell with you and your particular programme... we want all'."

Senator Mottley said that in the short term the apartment buildings must be provided... we cannot break faith with the people and especially the low income earners.

He denied opposition claims that he had shares in a firm which were the local associates of the South Korean firm.

Senator Mottley also drew attention to the fact that the tenders were opened in public late last year while denying reports that the original tender from the firm was \$410 million.

Outlining 14 projects, he pointed out that in most of the projects the completion date by local contractors were not met. He also pointed out that it was not only in housing that projects overran the completion date but in instances involving school buildings.

One project he noted was at Valencia where the contractor was Emile Elias for a \$35.6 million project for 272 houses: completion date was September 1982 the project was not yet completed.

At Malabar, for 278 units for \$45.2 million, the contract was still to be completed by the same contractor and that 129 houses remained to be handed over since they could not be occupied until the roads and drains were completed.

Also at Malabar, Trinidad Contractors Ltd had not completed their contract for infrastructure for 1,800 housing units although the completion date was March.

Dipcon Ltd had not completed a contract for building lots at Five Rivers, he said, and also at Valsayn.

George Wimpey (Caribbean Limited) handed over the last apartment block out of 220 apartments in February this year, although the completion date for the \$34.8 million contract was October 1981.

Emile Elias and O'Connor Construction completed their 100 housing units in May 1982 ahead of the scheduled completion date of November 1982.

Senator Mottley pointed out that Trinidad Home Developers had 1,030 units overdue on the \$204.7 million contract for 3,561 housing units at La Horqueta.

At Chaguanas, the original plan for 4,000 housing units had been scaled down to 500 units.

He said, too, that at Maloney Housing Development where the contractor was Maloney Estates in association with Trinidad Home Developers, 1,000 housing units were overdue at the end of June.

At Flagstaff Hill, a contract for 53 apartments awarded to Endeco, originally to be completed in September 1981, was not yet finished, while another contractor, Aah and Watson, for 15 garden houses "went bust" and the contract for another 18 garden houses had to be awarded to another contractor in March 1981.

Motilal Moonan Ltd, which had a contract to develop 160 housing lots to be completed on February 27, this year, handed over the project in April.

The San Juan Senior Comprehensive School and the El Dorado Senior Comprehensive for which the contractor was Emile Elias and Co. Ltd., was overrun by 323 and 316 days, respectively.

LOWEST TENDER

At Carapichaima Senior Comprehensive School, the contractor, Motilal Moonan, overran the project by 252 days while Fujiko overran the Marabella Senior Comprehensive School contract by 225 days.

George Wimpey Caribbean Ltd overran the contract time for the Barrackpore Senior Comprehensive school by 156 days.

Senator Mottley said that the international tender was opened on December 17, and the lowest tenderer was the South Korean firm for \$278.6 million while the local firms, Lange Ballast bid 320.3 million and Emile Elias and Company \$368.3 million.

He said that local employment would peak in 1985 at just under 1,000 permits.

Senator Mottley said: "We are dealing with people claiming to act in the interest of the national economy, but it is a matter of dollars and cents.

"I did not want to get into all of this but I had no choice," he said.

"Some of the people who are criticising the Ministry are not doing so for hallowed reasons; it is for dollars and cents."

Drawing attention to comments made in the National Physical Development Plan relating to the construction industry, he pointed out that Government was taking action towards restructuring the industry but in the short term he had no other choice.

Senator Mottley reiterated his earlier statement that they had accepted the advice of the consultants in accepting the lowest tender. The Ministry, he said, would make sure that the international contractors lived up to having local labour on the projects.

Charge Against Local Company

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

SENATOR Wendell Mottley, Minister of Housing and Resettlement, claimed yesterday that the firm of Emile Elias and Company Limited brought into the country for work on construction projects 118 expatriates between 1981 and June 1983.

Speaking at a Press conference at his ministry yesterday in the light of complaints by local contractors concerning a tender to a Chin-Hong a South Korean firm, for building of 1,074 apartment units, Senator Mottley said that 70 expatriates were employed by Emile Elias on one project.

He said that some of them were seen to be engaged in the operation of such equipment as pumps, back hoes and power floats, nailing wooden trusses and breaking concrete.

Minister Mottley said that information had been made available to the Ministry of National Security for appropriate action.

He also released a copy of an in-

voice in which 31, fifty-five gallon drums of coarse texture paint, and 400 five gallon interior latex flat paint costing overall \$147,000 was consigned to the firm of Emile Elias and Company Limited.

He said that the material could have been obtained locally. The shipment came through in containers and one shipment got through but the Housing Task Force stepped in and stopped further shipments.

Contacted later, Mr. Elias simply gave a big laugh when told of Minister Mottley's charges.

Pressed for comment, Mr. Elias said:

"Shame, shame on Senator Mottley for crying down local contractors when only last year he highly praised my company and other local firms for being able to overcome the constraints faced in the local construction industry."

He reiterated that the issue involving the paints was a mistake (which was published before) and the company agreed not to repeat it.

Opposition in Housing Authority

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

A FORMER member of the National Housing Authority (NHA) was against the granting of an award to any foreign firm for the high density housing project.

After the \$278 million contract was awarded to the Korean firm of Chin-Hung International, the NHA official resigned in disgust.

In his comment, the member who was not present when the vote was taken, told the NHA at a board meeting on April 7, 1983:

"The economic climate in this country appears to have dramatically changed since this project was first conceived, so much so that it is my firm opinion that the award of this contract to a foreign contractor should not now be considered.

"I would strongly suggest that the board make a request to the Minister (of Housing) to allow this contract to be restructured into smaller packages, with local contractors being asked to participate."

He continued:

"It is my firm belief that the question of expatriate personnel the Koreans require to bring into this country must rule them out from consideration."

According to an informed source, a member of the NHA Board, lawyer Robin Montano, wrote Housing

Minister Wendell Mottley on May 28, 1983:

"The proposal by Chin-Hung to import 410 expatriates and employ 749 local workers to build a system similar to the two Scandinavian contracts can only be regarded in a jaundiced light.

"There are no requirements in the contract that will force the Koreans to employ 749 locals and there is nothing that we will be able to do if they do not do so."

It was reported yesterday that out of the eight NHA board members, only five were present two voting against, two for and the chairman of the NHA made a casting vote — in favour.

Mr. Canute Spencer, NHA Chairman, could not be contacted yesterday, so was the ex-board member who expressed his disagreement (not Mr. Montano).

When contacted yesterday, Senator Wendell Mottley, Minister of Housing and Resettlement, said the NHA member who resigned was part of a team which on February 23, 1983, signed a report on the evaluation of all the tenderers.

This report recommended that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder — Chin-Hung International.

GUARDIAN Criticism

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 7 Aug 83 p 3

[By SUNDAY GUARDIAN special correspondent]

[Text]

IT IS bad enough to deprive a child of the opportunities to do things for itself, to learn, and to improve. It is even worse to give the child the opportunities, and then take them back, because the stultifying effects are not limited to ignorance and ineptitude, but embrace inferiority, frustration and childish dependency.

When the Government of a young, vibrant nation takes back from its citizens the right to do things for themselves, to learn and improve, then it is just as assuredly applying the Judas kiss of death to the people. Recent events in the fields of housing bear testimony to this trend.

The award of a housing contract to a firm of South Koreans is far more significant than an economic decision. It is a verdict on a people. It must be taken for what it is — a condemnation of a people's ability even to erect their own houses! If in addition to this the people of the nation are also told that they are unable to build their own roads, repair their own highways and do the most basic of functions, then they are the victims of a most vulgar trade-off in which the basic freedom to express talent and to improve is exchanged for a life of helpless dependency and eternal irresponsibility.

The unspoken motive seems to be that if people don't have to worry about work or performance but can be well paid for doing nothing, then they are sure to enjoy and to prefer the political situation the way it is.

Up to a point, this kind of thinking produces the desired results. But slowly at first, then with increasing momentum, a feeling of national inadequacy and inferiority begins to gnaw away at the confidence of the people. After a while, all that is left is an empty purposeless shell, a social relic good only for decorating each year when Carnival comes around.

This column hastens to assert its belief in the use of external talent when required. No nation can do without the inflow of talented souls. The collapse of Nazi Germany brought a windfall of actors, scientists, architects, engineers, musicians, teachers and others to the United States and the Soviet Union in particular. We would be foolish as a nation to question such a trend.

What is disturbing is the indecency with which the so-called hated foreign experts were dispatched when we gained Independence, as compared with the almost carte blanche treatment extended to many more thousands of semi-experts and non-experts, years later.

The people we chased away in 1962 and '63 were not itinerants. They had been living in Trinidad and Tobago for several years. They liked the place, drank our rum, ate our cassadoo and were quite satisfied to remain. But we saw it fit, churlishly, to uproot them and to send them packing.

EVER INCREASING

In contrast, the hundreds who now swarm over our countryside in ever-increasing numbers are here for one principal purpose — to make a quick buck. They don't care to stay and their loyalties are strictly mercenary. Were they all the providers of special expertise, we could understand their being invited to our country. There are specialities possessed by some of the immigrant workers which we simply do not possess in Trinidad and Tobago and must import if the country wants to progress. This is particularly true in the high technology fields.

But the majority of the itinerants are not high-tech specialists. The more than 200 South Koreans who will be coming here have not a single speciality that can not be adequately provided by the people of Trinidad and Tobago. They will bring across South Korean carpenters, South Korean masons, South Korean engineers, South Korean office workers, South Korean cooks and South Korean menus.

In this, they will match the precedent of the French hospital builders who even have their own housing enclave.

The French have "rewarded" the people of Trinidad and Tobago by withdrawing visa-free entry for Trinidadians and Tobagonians into France. But insults to do not deter our self-abnegating, spendrift ways.

Somehow we have conveniently forgotten that once upon a time we were able to build our own hospitals. But those were poorer but prouder days when independence referred to action, pride and competence. Today, these tenets have been exchanged for another kind of independence — the right to sell ourselves and our country, cheap.

What is it about re-doing and repairing roads that requires German expertise to tell us about and do for us? These precious isles of ours once boasted the finest roads in the Caribbean. Those were in the days of Bertie Gomes and \$40 million annual budgets.

Now that we have become a regional super-power floating in billions of dollars of oil money, we have to call in experts from Germany to tell us how to use our pitch, how to drive our trucks, how to fill a pothole, how to form a curb wall or a drain, and how to mix aggregate. Are these the "specialities" that we need to import?

TO WALLOW

There is hardly an area in our lives today in which scores of unnecessary foreign workers are not doing for us, things that we should be doing for ourselves. But we are so happy to wallow in being able to play the part of big bosses who can summon servants to do our bidding, that we are losing the capacity to do anything for ourselves.

Like ancient Rome in its decline, we have lost the will to fight and

are bereft of the determination and mettle to succeed.

Pleasure has replaced principle, and corruption is a political way of life. And underneath our veneer of smiling opulence lies the quaking feelings of fright and adequacy. In the absence of self-assertion, self-confidence and self-fulfilment, we have become unsure of the present, and daunted by the future.

We are at a loss for self-reliance at a time in our history when, on the basis of a bounteous fate, we should be striving ahead and achieving. The result is an insecure people, so inferior in hope, ambition and direction that foreign shores and mores are constantly needed to give us the assurance we so desperately require.

And as if that were not had enough, our Government now accelerates the rate of national inferiority by extending vast sums to a foreign contractor at a time when our earnings are contracting and jobs are becoming in short supply in the indicator field of construction.

Frankly, it is a wicked pernicious and thoughtless thing to do and corroborates the long-held opinion that the official view of the public is one of useless hangers-on, stupid enough to be constantly fooled by freeness and entertainment.

THE DEBACLE

And it is not as if we have not contributed to the debacle that is coming to a painful focus in the Korean project. Overcome by greed and uncontrolled, childish delight for indulging fancies, the public itself embarked on an orgy of surfeit and gluttonous excess, particularly in raising prices and wages to unbelievable levels.

Labour has been a principal participant in this binge, literally making capital on Government's weaknesses and on the incapacity of our leaders to manage with strength.

No one better than our union leaders can take advantage of Government's sad pandering to blocs of voters to whom they would sacrifice any price, pay any wage bill, and meet any condition, in order to keep the political boat from rocking.

It is understandable therefore that the unions have nothing to say

when low-level Korean workers can come in to take their places. This is because our workers are quite satisfied to sit and be paid for doing nothing while the foreigners do the work.

This is not only sloth, but dishonesty, and publicly accepted corruption. But because it is a case of "you please me and I please you," the unions say nothing, while the bread is being taken away from hungry people not fortunate enough to belong to opulent unions.

In this, the unions and the Government do precisely what they wish, and indulge in a methodical oppression of the country's will to survive and achieve.

There is much more to the galling Korean contract than the export of unnecessary capital and the trampling underfoot of national self-confidence and pride. By sinking yet another nail into the coffin of enterprise and true independence, the Government is not only accelerating our transformation into a society of indigents and parasites, but is abdicating its cardinal role in the management of the country's economy.

In the profane pursuit of mega-projects meant to impress voters and timed for polling-date completion, the financial "wizards" in Government are also guilty of hastening the country faster than its capabilities permit — faster than it can go.

The all-too-familiar offshoots are inflation, declining productivity, shortages, cost over runs, inadequate management controls, corruption, inefficient or anachronistic plants and, generally, an overheated economy.

Why the mad rush to spend every cent at a hell-for-leather pace? Controlled expenditure, less foolish largess (e.g. DEWD) and a greater trust in the people of the country in identifying and implementing avant-garde projects are better approaches than crude vote-buying.

Financial practicality and sobriety have no room for mass importation of foreign workers, or for foreign firms to do everything for us. In today's ebb-tide of economic stringencies, even the "guest workers" of developed nations, are being asked to return to their homelands.

Lead nations only welcome the highest expertise, turning a polite demurring to lesser inputs. Only financial wastrels can continue on the suicidal importation of hundreds and thousands of unnecessary workers.

Legal Ramifications

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 7 Aug 83 pp 1, 7

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

HOUSING MINISTER Wendell Mottley has gone to the police after receiving two letters from National Housing Authority Board member Robin Montano. The Minister disclosed this in an interview with the "Sunday Guardian".

Mr. Mottley also said that no agreement has yet been signed between Government and the Korean firm in a \$210 million contract.

Mr. Montano, a solicitor and one of five of eight NHA Board members who have not resigned recently, said in letters dated May 24 and June 29 this year, that a member of his family had been approached by a Korean representing the South Korean firm of Chin Hung International (S. Korea) over a contract concerning high-rise flats.

The \$210 million — at least — award has been given to the Asian

firm and is the subject of growing anger among local contractors, one of which, Lange Ballast Contractors Ltd., was recommended by Mr. Montano.

Mr. Mottley says that he had no choice but to put the matter contained in the letters in the hands of the "relevant authorities" — the police.

And his Permanent Secretary, Mr. Ainsley Tim Pow, has stressed that under the terms of the contract, dated July 8, loans, gifts or fees cannot be paid to anyone involved in the massive housing deals.

NO AGENTS

Also, he said, letters from the contractors indicated that Chin Hung has no agents operating here.

Mr. Montano, in a telephone interview that began with a question from the SUNDAY GUARDIAN con-

cerning the present composition of the NHA Board, said he was not in a position to make public statements about the Board and its contracts. He said that in any issue there would be disagreements and it was left to the Minister to disclose information.

But three members, Mr. George Chin, Mr. Albert "Ben" Battoo and Mr. Stephen Mendes have quit the NHA and have not been replaced. They are still reported to have left over the scheme.

Meanwhile, the contract for the high-rise or "high density" flats has been the subject of so much concern among local builders that Mr. Mottley held a Press conference on Friday during which he gave reasons why the major section of the programme has been allocated to the Korean firm.

Mr. Montano, in the letter dated May 24 last, wrote that further to a meeting of the Board on May 18 (at which the contract was awarded), Mr. Mottley should be aware of "curious circumstances" which he had before complained to the Minister about. These included, among a very long list, a lack of proper information given to the Board.

He also wrote of the non-availability of both the preliminary and final reports for "a considerable time," the non-availability, the refusal or unwillingness or inability of the Board to meet with the consultants (Trintoplan Consultants Ltd., of which Dr. Lenny Saith, also a member of the NHA Board is a director).

Mr. Montano said he made strong protests over gross irregularities at the May 18 meeting when the contract was given to Chin Hung. And, he wrote:

"Apart from all this, you ought to know that a member of my family has been approached by a Korean on behalf of Chin Hung to pursue me in order to ascertain if there was anything further that needed to be done."

Mr. Montano said that he was writing a report on three of the four companies that were among the short list considered for the contract.

He said that one of the firms (Hojguard & Schulz, the third lowest bidder) had a connection with his aunt and therefore was not considered in his deliberations.

He said that the consultants had stated before that any one of the tenderers under consideration had the capacity to do the job.

Mr. Montano "respectfully submitted" that one of the four firms, Lange Ballast, should be awarded the contract, as the firm indicated that "large savings" were possible.

In reply to a June 17 response from the House and Resettlement Minister, which invited the Board member to give details of his "curious circumstances" allegations, Mr. Montano said that a letter from the consultants was not helpful — it could not be easily understood and the information the letter contained could not be easily ascertained without a great deal of further study.

The letter from the consultants, Trintoplan, was of little or no value to the Board's deliberations, Mr. Montano said.

He said the May 18 meeting was a nullity, since it was not properly constituted.

He said that the Board had previously voted unanimously to award the contract to Lange Ballast — yet the Tenders Committee of NHA made recommendations directly opposite to that vote of a month before.

The Board members were given very little notice (24 hours before) of the meeting and none of them, at least Mr. Montano, Mr. Mendes or Mr. Seegobin, knew that the March 18 meeting was being held for another vote on the award of the contract, Mr. Montano said.

"In fact, we did not know of the true purpose of the meeting until we got there," Mr. Montano said in his letter.

He said that the NHA Chairman, Mr. Canute Spencer, did not give any reasoned or cogent argument about the "change of heart."

"By all that is normal, what took place on May 18, 1983, must be considered as highly irregular."

Mr. Montano, in his June 29 letter to the Housing Minister, again referred to the approach of a Korean:

"With regard to the approach to a member of my family by a Korean on behalf of Chin Hung, please be advised that an approach was made on Tuesday, March 22, 1983, by a Korean on behalf of Chin Hung with a request that I be approached or spoken to in relation to this matter. Nothing further was done, to my knowledge.

"I myself would not countenance any interference with my own deliberate judgment in the conduct of my public duties. However, I consider the incident serious enough to report to you, especially when the

timing of the approach is taken into consideration."

The Housing Minister, in a reply to Mr. Montano dated June 17, pointed out that the consultants' (Trintoplan) recommended that the award should be made to the lowest tenderer, which was Chin Hung, and that the figure was then \$278,600.

Associated with Trintoplan, according to a copy of a letter dated February 23, is the firm of Design Collaborative. Signing on behalf of that firm was Mr. Stephen Mendes, who resigned some months afterwards from the NHA Board.

Mr. Fenrick R. de Four signed on behalf of another Trintoplan associate on the housing project, A De B consultants.

Yesterday, Trintoplan's Dr. Lenny Saith said that the Chin Hung contract was quite normal, with a price escalation clause going into effect after the first year. The project, he said, will take 30 months after final documents have been signed.

Mr. Mottley said that the May 18 meeting was held in accordance with Government regulations and that at another meeting, chaired by the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, Mr. Errol Mahabir, a pledge was obtained from Chin Hung that local employment would rise to over 1,000.

Mr. Mottley told the "SUNDAY GUARDIAN" that in the proposed agreement with Chin Hung there are no proposals for escalations in labour costs.

He said that the costs of one flat at the three sites that Chin Hung will develop will be approximately \$158,000. These sites are Embacadero and Torouba in the South and Powder Magazine at Cocorite. Tender documents have not yet been drawn up for the Charlotte and Oxford Street high-rise project. The land has not been acquired by Government as yet.

Government sources have indicated that one of the reasons, apart from the low tender of Chin Hung, in awarding the contract to the Koreans, is that this country could get a foothold in the Korean market for iron and steel from ISCOIT, plus sales from Trinidad and Tobago's ammonia plant.

Local contractors will bid for 220 units at the Charlotte/Oxford Street sites, 50 flats at another site in San Fernando and 484 at two Morvant areas.

As it stands, the \$210 million initial cost for the Koreans will go this way: At Embacadero the costs will be at least \$53,765,000 at Tarouba the project will mean \$104,732,000 and another \$52 million-plus at Powder Magazine.

ONR Condemnation

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 7 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

MR. Karl Hudson-Phillips, political leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), yesterday condemned the take-it-or-leave-it attitude of the Minister of Housing, Mr. Wendell Mottley, regarding the \$278 million contract to a South Korean firm to construct 1,070 apartment houses in Trinidad.

In a statement, Mr. Hudson-Phillips said the Government was seriously misjudging and underestimating the mood of the population.

He said it was inconceivable that the Government should go to such lengths in an attempt to justify its decision, which was against the working class in this country.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips said he would advise the Brotherhood and Construction Workers Union to protest openly the decision to grant the South Korean contract. He is legal

adviser to the union, representing construction workers in the country.

He said Government turned a deaf ear to representations made by unions in the past about a number of jobs being held by foreigners on several Government contracts.

The South Korean contract, he said, was the straw that will break the camel's back.

He recalled that Government had announced it had ceased all government to government contracts following a Government appointed examination of the contracts.

This award to the South Korean company, which Mr. Hudson-Phillips understood is a state-owned corporation, "is a return to the same government to government arrangement," he said.

He called on all trade union leaders to stand up and protest the contract.

Call for Mottley's Resignation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) has called for the immediate resignation of Housing Minister Senator Wendell Mottley and National Housing Authority Chairman Canute Spencer over the Korean housing contract.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ONR, one of the parties contesting today's local government elections stated:

"The ONR is alarmed by the callousness, cynicism, ineptitude and un-Trinidadianess of the Minister who, in true PNM style, seeks once more to bamboozle the

populace regarding the South Korean contract that has now blown up in the Minister's face.

"This explosion has demonstrated once more that the PNM Government cannot be trusted to level with the population and in its rage and thirst for maintaining itself in power will go to any lengths to hoodwink the citizenry, particularly at election time."

The ONR said Mr. Spencer must also hold himself accountable and responsible for the contract "to the detriment of the local construction industry and of the national economy in a time of economic crisis and declining reserves."

WORKER PARTICIPATION SUBJECT OF UNION-ISCOTT STUDY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

THE Steel Workers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SWATT), the bargaining representative for the hourly and weekly paid employees of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT), has joined the company's management in a re-examination of the concept of worker participation within the organisation.

According to a company release, SWATT's representatives form part of a nine-man team which has been appointed by the company to conduct this exercise and to launch a new programme.

The committee will be chaired by Dr. Basil Matthews, former principal of the St. Benedict's College in La Romain who has done extensive research in this field, said the release.

The rest of the committee comprises Rawl

Cambridge, George Camps and A. Somersault of SWATT, Dr. Lennox Yearwood, manager of ISCOTT's Human Resources Planning and Organizational Division, Archill Harris, the company's training supervisor, Carlyle Raymond, safety officer, Peter Andrews, communications assistant and Keith Subero, communication officer.

Dr. Matthews will function as an independent Chairman to prepare proposals for the establishment of a Workers' Council which will operate alongside the union to develop a continuous worker education programme and a pilot project in one of the company's departments for the establishment of participatory management.

At the inauguration of the committee on Tuesday, the company's executive vice-president of administration and human re-

sources, Keith Toby, said ISCOTT has been a pioneer in the field of technology and worker participation in the country.

Speaking at a brief function held at the company's Point Lisas headquarters Mr. Toby said since ISCOTT's establishment there were some stumbling blocks, but given the problems that the company faced, such as the protectionist measures in the United States, there was now a greater need for management-worker relations to become more cohesive.

He emphasised that ISCOTT's management particularly its chairman, Dr. Kenneth Julien, was totally committed to the concept and that the committee in preparing the groundwork would be completely free of management's interference.

VIOLENCE A DAILY OCCURRENCE AT STRIKE-BOUND FACTORY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

VIOLENCE has become a daily pattern around the compound of the Patrick Young Sing Company Limited at Frederick Settlement in Caroni since a strike came into effect two weeks ago.

To date one man has received six stitches, two have reported to have been struck by a vehicle and been treated and one of them discharged, several vehicles have been damaged and many people have received death threats.

The furniture company's premises have also been reported to have been damaged.

According to a report from the All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union which represents about 55 weekly-paid employees of the 95 employed, on Tuesday afternoon the union's shop steward, Nagassar Bachan, and

Hayman Ramesh was struck by a

vehicle driven by a company official as they were standing in their camp site about 100 yards from the firm.

The union said the other striking workers retaliated by smashing windscreens of other vehicles leaving the compound and soon after policemen from the tactical squad arrived and began "terrorising the workers."

Union officer, Sylvester Maharaj said the police "pushed and cursed" the strikers and held one of them, Kumar Soogrim, without charges.

However John Young Sing, one of the firm's managers, said all vehicles and people entering and leaving the compound have been threatened since the strike.

SEVERAL INCIDENTS

He related several incidents where cars and vans have been damaged by the strikers and death and other threats made against management, employees and customers.

According to Mr. Young Sing, on the day of the alleged vehicular accident, there was an escalation of the violence as employees began to leave the plant at 3.30 p.m.

He said vehicles and people were attacked in succession and after one employee was almost dragged out of his vehicle, the vehicle following behind driven by Stephen Young Sing struck two strikers who were standing in its path.

Stephen Young Sing claimed that he was driving at about five miles per hour and at that time had a hammer thrown through his back windscreen while other damages with sticks and other weapons were being inflicted on his vehicle.

Mr. John Young Sing said after this incident, the two men who were hit attacked another employee with a cutlass in another car and the man has received six stitches.

He said glass panes were then broken at the firm and the police arrived only after the strikers had left.

According to Mr. Young Sing it is "a state of siege" down at the plant and the police are investigating the matter.

COMMISSIONER NOTES 'SIGNIFICANT' RISE IN ORGANIZED CRIME

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THERE has been a significant increase in organised crime in this country and the Police are launching an all out "assault on crime" to deal with the problem.

Following a meeting of all heads of police divisions and senior detectives, Commissioner of Police, Randolph Burroughs announced that the operations of the police service have been reorganised to keep crime under control.

The discussions, which took place at Mr. Burroughs' Operations Office at St James Barracks on Tuesday, were held to analyse the crime situation and to formulate new strategies to "counter the upsurge in brazen crimes that are being committed in the country."

A specific plan of operation has not been disclosed but the Commissioner said that he has deployed a Task Force and Strike Force made up of specially selected officers, including detectives from the various divisions.

According to Mr Burroughs, there were certain factors which were frustrating the efforts of the Police. One was the apparent reluctance of certain individuals who witnessed crimes to assist Police in investigations. He expressed the hope that there would be more "crime concerned citizens" willing to exercise their civic rights by helping the Police in the fight against crime.

The Commissioner was also concerned about "repeaters" whom he described as persons "who have already come to the notice of the Police and are suspects in a number of recent armed robberies and other crimes". He said that these "repeaters" continue to commit crimes.

"The theory is that they are in need of funds to secure litigation. There is also evidence that these "repeaters" are endeavouring to recruit persons to join them in their illegal activities," he said.

He also said he was concerned about professionals who were sympathetic towards criminals and were offering assistance to them in their areas of specialisation.

"While I am aware of the rights of the criminals and even the professionals, I am more concerned with the rights of the many victims of crimes and the public in general," the Commissioner declared.

Soon after the Strike Force went into action, five persons were detained for questioning. Two are now assisting Police in investigations into the recent \$227,000 robbery at the Republic Bank, San Juan, while another is being questioned about a \$30,000 robbery at Apang Cold Storage, Laventille, and the hijacking of a motor car in Diego Martin in May this year.

The fourth person has been detained on several outstanding warrants for armed robberies and the other is reported to be a prohibited immigrant from Grenada.

END TO QUARRYING, CHEMICAL DEPOSITS, DEFORESTATION SOUGHT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 6

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

QUESTIONABLE quarrying, dangerous chemical deposits and deforestation through unauthorised farming, dirty habits of visitors plus other practices, have led the Forestry Department to make strong recommendations about the Caura Valley and the Tacarigua River which runs through the area.

The department, in a report sent to other Government bodies last week, says that all quarrying operations should be banned north of the Water and Sewerage Authority treatment plant.

It further states that a company which is operating in the area had been given a six-month licence to do so in 1975. Despite several orders to quit quarrying since then, the company defied Government and even increased the intensity of its works this year.

During the wet season which the country is now experiencing, water from the river is considered at best "fair" but the report says that water should not at any time be consumed.

It points out that faecal-based organisms are as much as 80 times over the amount considered safe by Public Health authorities.

A Forestry Department official yesterday said that picnickers and squatters were deplorable in their toilet habits in and around the river which attracted about 900 people on a weekend and 3-400 visitors during the week.

"Overall analysis of the water indicated very high levels of organic matter and chemicals found in agriculture applications, some of which are very toxic even in low concentrations" according to the report.

Additionally, it points out "the presence of feathers and entrails of animals cleaned in the river is a problem."

BURN AND PLANT

The Forestry Department recommends that, in view of the serious nature of the chemicals used by the average farmer or squatter who is a "quick crop, burn and plant man" according to the official interviewed yesterday, these measures should be taken:

- The "highest responsible authority" should determine, immediately, which agro-chemicals can be considered safe for sale and use in the Caura Valley and which should be banned.

- Spraying should be done only with hand-held or knapsack units and the use of granular chemicals should be banned within 200 metres of the Tacarigua River all year round.

- And the type, concentration and application frequency for all agro-chemicals should be determined and enforced by agricultural officers

The Forestry Department study reminds other Government divisions that use of the popular herbicide gramaxone (paraquat) and the insecticide chlordane is restricted in the United States and Canada by special permits, and the use of several others is also strictly controlled near water zones.

About the quarrying, the report goes into detail: "A six-month lease was granted for the purpose of quarrying stone in February, 1975. The lease has never been renewed although operations continue. During the intervening period, several quit notices have been issued by the competent authority, the most recent in 1982 with an effective date of December 31 of that year.

"However, the tempo and scope of activities increased in the first months of 1983. A small office has been installed and the foundations laid for a second crusher which was transported to the site in early February. A small building has been constructed near the Tacarigua River and a water holding pond dug, from which water will be pumped to wash machinery.

"The lease specified that no effluent or wash waters were to be

emptied into any drainage course without proper treatment, including a settling pond."

The department feels that if this operation continues, agriculture, the Caura villagers, and the WASA treatment plant would be adversely affected. the WASA plant cannot handle a drastic increase in sediment load.

Questioned about their practices, 79 per cent of visitors who had been to Caura for the first time indicated they used the contaminated water to drink or cook with.

About squatting, the report says that if present trends are allowed to go unchecked, the WASA plant would become useless, and thus a multi-million dollar investment would be compromised, and pipe borne water for residents would be required.

CSO: 3298/908

PESTICIDE IMPORTS UP MORE THAN 100 PERCENT IN DECADE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago increased imports of pesticides from 1,159 tonnes at a cost of \$9,952,198 in 1970 to 1,785 tonnes at a cost of \$19,716,785 in 1980 — more than a 100 per cent increase in ten years.

Agriculture, Lands and Food Production Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed quoted these statistics as he addressed the opening of the meeting on harmonisation of pesticide legislation and registration in the Caribbean, held at the Holiday Inn.

The meeting, which began on Tuesday, concluded on Friday. Representatives from throughout the Caribbean attended. It was sponsored by the Inter American Institute for Co-Operation on Agriculture (IICA), the Society for Plant Protection in the Caribbean and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Mohammed said that in today's world, the use of pesticides looms large as an input in high-productivity farming.

"A wide range of pesticides is actively used in agriculture, forestry, livestock production, public health and also urban pest control programmes.

"As the primary means of pest control in most agricultural regions of the

world, pesticides have doubtlessly been of great benefit to man.

"In the Caribbean region where losses due to pests have been approximated above 30 per cent, we have not escaped this dependence on the use of pesticides in our food production effort".

30 PER CENT

Mr. Mohammed said he was not able to obtain data on the importation of pesticides into the Caribbean but available information suggested that there were well over 300 pesticidal chemicals imported and available to the public.

"Published appraisals of the pesticide consumption patterns internationally show that the Third World uses approximately 30 per cent of all insecticides produced and 15 to 20 per cent of all pesticides", he said.

The Minister added: "It is very disturbing for us to accept the implications of available reports which indicate that many chemicals banned in their country of origin — developed countries — are exported and used extensively in many Third World locations".

BRIEFS

UNION PROTEST CANCELLATION--All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union has called off its protest demonstrations held on Thursdays at midday at Brechin Castle. The demonstrations were to call on State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited to offer work to seasonal and temporary workers. Mr Basdeo Panday, President General of the union, said yesterday that Caroni intended to offer work to some of the workers. A check with Caroni revealed that the company was considering the possibility, depending on the availability of funds, to offer work because of absenteeism of other workers. It was stated too, that the company laid off the temporary and seasonal workers in the North because the planting programme had ended. The workers in Central and South continued to get work because the programme was continuing. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Aug 83 p 16]

CSO: 3298/908

CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE PDVSA ESPIONAGE CASE

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Aug 83 P 2-1

[Article by J. V.: "Congress Will Investigate Espionage in Petroleum Industry"]

[Text] Senator Pompey Marquez maintains that the information leak is due to the umbilical cord which still links the industry to the multinationals. The Social Christian Party denies that the police action has anything to do with the coming election of the new board of directors of PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.]

The case of the petroleum executives who were arrested on charges of taking confidential industry documents will be investigated by the congress of the republic.

It was learned yesterday that, for the moment, two initiatives would be filed along these lines. The first one, coming from Senator Pompeyo Marquez, addressed to the chairman of the Senate Energy and Mining Committee, Virgilio Avila Vivas, petitions for the opening of the investigation; the second one will be submitted by the parliamentary delegation of the Social Christian Party as was announced yesterday by Deputy Leonardo Ferrer.

The scandal broke out in connection with the discovery of "espionage" in the petroleum industry for the benefit of domestic and foreign private contractors and caused profound concern in parliament.

Senator and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] Secretary-General Pompeyo Marquez said that this problem was raised on other occasions and from the very moment of petroleum nationalization.

"The basis for this information leak is to be found in the umbilical cord which still links the Venezuelan Petroleum Industry to the multinationals through the sales and technological assistance contracts," Senator Marquez pointed out. He recalled that the famous "Kennedy Report," approved by the United States Senate, contained more complete information on the plan for the exploitation of the Orinoco petroleum strip than was available to the Venezuelan authorities.

He also talked about the debated case of the multinational enterprises Lumus and Betchel and their rather controversial participation in the process of changing refining standards which, in his judgment, deprived the country of a large volume of information that was available at the time.

"However," Pompeyo Marquez pointed out, "it is very strange that this entire scandal is coming out at the very moment when we are moving ahead to elect the new board of directors of PDVSA. At any rate, this is a good opportunity to make a revision in the PDVSA board of directors but it is even a better opportunity to start an in-depth development of the process of petroleum nationalization and break with the multinationals on a level of sovereignty and protection of national interests."

In his opinion, the crimes with which the arrested petroleum executives are charged, are covered by the provisions of Article 70 of the Assets Safeguard Law.

On the other hand, the leader of the parliamentary delegation of the Social Christian Party, Leonardo Ferrer, came out in favor of a congressional investigation not only in order precisely to determine the damages that may have been inflicted upon the petroleum industry due to the leakage of information and the responsibility of the officials involved in this action but also to establish greater coordination between the petroleum sector and parliament for the purpose of the supervising efforts of the latter.

On that point, Ferrer emphasized that Congress, on occasion, out of excessive zeal in its supervisory function, manages in public to debate questions that should be discussed behind closed doors. In his opinion, although the industry must inform congress in detail when the latter so demands, some information of a "critical" nature should be revealed only to those members of parliament who are concerned with the matter and should not be debated in public.

Questioned as to possible links between the outbreak of the "espionage" scandal and the imminent meeting of the PDVSA, which will elect the board of directors of the parent petroleum company, Ferrer indicated that he had no information along those lines but ruled out any possible political overtones since the report as to these irregularities was backed by the presidents of all operating companies.

5058

CS0: 3348/642

HIGHER BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT EXPECTED

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 19 Aug 83 p 2-15

[Article by A. L. G.: "Gold Will Have To Be Sold To Take Care of Demand if Current Exchange Scheme Is not Modified--Central Bank Opinion"]

[Text] Estimated imports for this year will come \$8,220 million. Payments for services have been calculated at \$5,650 million.

Technical estimates prepared by the Central Bank of Venezuela point out that the deficit in the balance of payments this year will be more than had been calculated by the executive branch and it is believed that, if the current exchange system is not changed, the situation will become unmanageable.

It is calculated on the technical level that total imports for this year will come to something like \$8,220 million; this represents a decline of 37.6 percent compared to the prior result which was \$13,166 million.

Out of that amount, \$4,000 consist of imports with preferential dollars at 4.30. In other words, 48.66 percent.

Imports, with dollars at 6,000 bolivares, will come to 3,675 million, representing 44.7 percent; the rest, 545 million, would consist of imports with free dollars.

Although it has been calculated that unilateral transfers will be less than last year's amount (\$641 million), the estimated reduction in the services account is not significant.

Looking at the services account for this year, we have projected expenditures in the amount of 5,650 million; that represents a reduction of only 9.6 percent compared to the prior year's results, when \$6,233 million were allocated for these items.

This means that, looking at imports of goods and payments of services alone, expenditures in foreign exchange for this year will come to \$13,870 million, while the expected earnings will not exceed \$14,000 million.

Although the services account includes payments for debt servicing, it has not yet been completely determined how much of the foreign debt will be paid this year because this depends, on the one hand, on the results of refinancing negotiations and, on the other hand, because it has not yet been possible precisely to quantify the amount of the private debt which will have to be taken care of with dollars at 4.30, although, by way of a preliminary estimate, we do have a figure of \$8,000 million.

In the matter of debt refinancing, there is some uncertainty because of the disputes between the Central Bank and the finance minister; this has made it impossible to arrive at an agreement and, according to information obtained from the Central Bank, this is what caused the departure of the IMF representatives who were bothered by the dispute as such and because they found it awkward that they were unable to negotiate with the Central Bank which in reality is a member of the IMF.

Central Bank experts believe that, so long as the situation continues, it will be necessary to take basic exchange measures to prevent a more pronounced deterioration.

It is estimated that an exchange combination of around 7.00 bolivares--through the many controls to be instituted--will prevent the dollar demand so long as the problem of lack of confidence and uncertainty has not been solved [as published].

It is even thought that the situation will not improve so long as the capital, which left last year and the beginning of this year, is not brought back; this will not happen so long as the atmosphere of distrust persists.

This is why it is believed that, if all of these issues are not tackled thoroughly, the balance of payments deficit calculated by the executive branch at \$1,200 million, could be considerably higher and it may even be necessary to sell a part of the gold reserves to be able to take care of the foreign exchange demand for which authorizations are being granted much too easily.

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CSO: 3348/641

AD REACTION TOWARD DEFERMENT OF DEBT REFINANCING VIEWED

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 19 Aug 83 p 1-21

[Text] As a result of the finance minister's address to the country, there is now growing belief in the Democratic Action Party that the refinancing of the foreign public debt will fall into the term of the next administration.

Among the top leaders of the opposition party, there was a commentary yesterday according to which Arturo Sosa "for the first time spoke clearly" and revealed that the social Christian administration "will not specifically launch the corresponding negotiations."

To arrive at this conclusion, they took into account the explanations given by the minister regarding the development of conversations with representatives from the IMF.

"These conversations with the Fund," Sosa said Wednesday evening, "are going forward simultaneously with the negotiations with the creditor banks. However, since their objective today is only to preserve the international reserves on a desirable level, their conclusion is not absolutely obligatory for the rest of the year 1983; we can therefore anticipate that agreement will come after the understanding with the creditor banks."

Luis Raul Matos Azocar, executive coordinator of the administration program of Jaime Lusinchi, declared that "the problem of refinancing, such as we see it, will definitely wind up in the hands of AD [Democratic Action Party] since we do not believe that the Social Christian administration can solve it in the short time left to it."

He admitted nevertheless that the country the night before did get a good explanation from Finance Minister Artur Sosa regarding debt refinancing since, for the first time, he explained the situation to the people of Venezuela in detail and this is something we have been demanding for quite some time, in other words, we wanted to know what the real situation is but--the AD leader said--I also believe that Sosa is being optimistic when he thinks that it is possible to achieve debt refinancing and we believe that those calculations which are being made are also a little bit artificial.

In Matos' judgment, the fact that some people think that additional recourses are not necessary in the matter of foreign exchange, in terms of dollars, is due to the artificial fact that imports in the private industry sector have been slowed down and that a supply shortage will be brought about here.

On the other hand he shares the opinion expressed by former President Carlos Andres Perez when he said that it was easy for this administration to accumulate reserves because it does not pay what it owes. Not only does it not pay what it owes but, through what the Social Christians have called control over imports, but which means control over imports of raw materials and equipment for industry, they had to get together yesterday to tackle the serious problem of supply shortages because they used up all of their inventories. In other words, they were able to save foreign exchange because they forced industry to use up its inventories which are now down to nothing and it now needs foreign exchange to be able to solve that problem.

Matos Azocar explained that, in this case, what they did was to shift the cash flow, in the matter of outgo, that is, the bulk of it, to the last months and, in his judgment, they are trying to pass that problem on to the next administration.

Upon being questioned about the essential aspect of the difference between the minister of finance and the president of the Central Bank regarding debt refinancing, he said:

"I believe that the difference is precisely due to an analysis of the situation developed by the Central Bank concerning the management of imports where, it seems to me, it is rather unrealistic to think that, with \$8,700 million, which is what the finance minister mentioned, we are going to solve the problem of imports and at the same time defend the bolivar and, on the other hand, also pay the private debt off. In my judgment, in this case, the Central Bank is right with the analysis it is preparing and which is much more accurate since the annual import volume is generally something like \$13,000 million and since one cannot maintain this level of import controls which the administration is maintaining and which it has achieved through that which we are now witnessing--in other words, not giving dollars to practically anybody.

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CSO: 3348/641

CONGRESS REJECTS HERRERA'S OBJECTION TO BCV REFORM LAW

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 1-12

[Article by Amarilis Vasquez: "Congress Rejects Objections to Central Bank of Venezuela Reform Law"]

[Text] Freddy Munoz will prepare reform. Majority of committee constituted by AD [Democratic Action Party], URD [Democratic Republican Union], and MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] is not in agreement with president's objections and agreed to draft a reform confirming its position. Gustavo Tarre pledged to consult with the administration regarding the possibility that the national foreign exchange budget be given the status of a law. The next committee meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday.

The Special Congress Committee, which was appointed to study the objections raised by the president of the republic to the partial reform of the Law on the Central Bank of Venezuela, met yesterday morning and, after 3 hours, decided to appoint a spokesman to draft a report confirming the reasons why the reform in question is considered advisable.

Freddy Munoz, a MAS deputy, will be responsible for drafting the report which had the approval of the representatives of the AD, MAS, and URD, who constitute the majority on the committee chaired by D. F. Maza Zavala.

From the very start of the meeting, it was noted very clearly that it would be necessary to send the amended law to the president, as it was written up, in spite of the request from Gustavo Tarre Briceno and from the committee chairman to try to seek an alternative to the final rejection of the president's line of argument, so that the committee's work would not end with the simple formality of sending a report but on the contrary so that it would come up with a more substantial result.

The other alternative which was raised during the discussion was a proposal contained in the president's own line of argument, that is, to create a national foreign exchange budget. However, the opinion of the majority represented by AD, MAS, and URD prevailed in approving the wording of the report which would be drafted by Freddy Munoz, as was learned from the very beginning.

During the meeting, each of those present spoke up twice and the longest remarks were those made by Arturo Hernandez Grisanti and Freddy Munoz who reviewed the details surrounding the discussions that ended with the approval of the reform.

Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said that the wording of the articles that was finally approved by the congress sprang from a Social Christian brain--Luis Enrique Oberto--during a meeting held in the home of Leonardo Ferrer, in the course of which it was agreed to introduce some changes in the initial draft so as to achieve agreement. For this reason, the AD deputy cannot explain the administration's new attitude, saying "we do not know what pressures this is due to."

Later on in his remarks, Hernandez Grisanti explained that the objectives that are to be achieved through the centralization of foreign exchange of PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] in the Central Bank were not attained because we do not have a perfect knowledge of the foreign exchange situation and the situation regarding refinancing because "we are moving toward a third moratorium."

Freddy Munoz in turn pointed out that the president's document was a scaled-down version of all of the opinions of administration personalities who were consulted when the reform draft was put together; he was quite categorical in saying that it would not do and that what would have to be done with it would be to double it according to the requirements of the continent where he was thinking of keeping it; and so he folded it and put it in his briefcase.

In the remarks made by the opposition members of parliament there was no lack of allusions to the incoherence of the government aim, the contradictions between Diaz Bruzual and Sosa, and the lack of a clear position on the part of the president of the republic. There was also talk about the conflicts between the Social Christian Party and the administration which "unfortunately have become a habit."

Once again one could hear the argument that what people are trying to do with the reform is to guarantee a certain quantity of foreign exchange so that the PDVSA may be able to carry out its operations in foreign currency and so that this particular position will not conflict with the position of a national foreign exchange budget because, in both cases, the decision regarding the amount was made by the state with a view to making sure that the latter would have a majority in the PDVSA stockholders' meeting.

Regarding the national foreign exchange budget, Freddy Munoz alleged that this was a rather ethereal proposal and that one could consider the proposal only if it were given the force of law. Hernandez Grisanti asked why, if the administration was interested in creating that budget, it did not do so over the past 6 months, starting with the institution of foreign exchange controls.

Gustavo Tarre Briceno pledged--on request of Freddy Munoz to consult with the administration on the possibility that the national foreign exchange budget be given the status of a law. According to the pledge that was given, Freddy

Munoz will leave some blank spaces in the report which he is supposed to prepare in order to include the results of the investigation by Tarre.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday at noon. But it is practically a fact that the law will once again be sent to the president who certainly, and on the basis of the provisions of Article 173 of the Constitution, could return it once again.

Freddy Munoz and Arturo Hernandez Grisanti declared upon leaving that, if the president returned it, they would once again send it forward and there would then be no other remedy except to promulgate it. It seems that 30 days are enough to take care of all this and that was hinted at by Gustavo Tarre Briceno.

As for the possibility that the administration might accept the suggestion of giving the national foreign exchange budget the status of a law, Freddy Munoz himself said that it would be very difficult to get this idea accepted but that, in the end, the challenge had been made. Gustavo Tarre declared that "it is a possibility that I must consult on with the administration and with the party to see if it is possible."

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CSO: 3348/641

LACK OF PROGRESS IN INP CONFLICT REPORTED

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Aug 83 p 2-24

[Article by Rafael S. Borges: "New Threat of Conflict--Five Weeks Without Pay for Port Workers"]

[Text] Minister Lara Garcia announced the discharge of Engineer Carlos Villarroel but guaranteed that the latter would continue working for the INP [National Institute of Ports]. Retired personnel have 15 million coming. Tripartite Committee, charged with institute reorganization, met yesterday.

"It seems very strange to us that the INP is operating in a rather disorganized fashion since no member of the executive, including even the head of the MTC [Ministry of Transportation and Communications] officially announced whether Engineer Carlos Villarroel is or is not discharged; in this connection we would like to point out that it is a well-kept secret which the administration has with that gentleman," Rafael Castaneda said yesterday; he is one of the executive secretaries of the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], a member of the Tripartite Committee which is studying the reorganization of the INP; he said that Transportation and Communications Minister Engineer Francisco Lara Garcia announced the takeover of the INP and mentioned Dr Fidias Valles as being in charge of the office of president; but this did not come about because Engineer Villarroel continues his work. We did not see him but whenever he is called, his secretary indicates that he is at a meeting or that he went down to La Guaira.

"So, is it not true that Engineer Villarroel was replaced, as announced by the boss of the MTC?"

"It looks like it. We are meeting at the headquarters of the INP with the representatives of the Institute; they are Fidias Valles, Hugo Contramaestre, and John Maal; we are also meeting with those who represent the MTC, that is, Lya Fitgerard and Marcial Hernandez, who are authorized to look into this reorganization project; but we did not see Engineer Villarroel. But there are those who say that he is there, at work, while others say the exact opposite."

"What are you going to take up at today's meeting?"

"To start our work, we wanted first of all to look at the economic report of the INP in order to start with a complete foundation and we also hope to look at the proposals to be presented to us by the administration representatives. We, in turn, will put together a group of proposals that will be aimed at finding out the expenditures and also the management payroll and, finally, we will look into the operation and the disaster in which this INP now finds itself."

"Have the port workers been paid their wages?"

"The situation of the port workers is very difficult because they have not yet been paid for the weeks of work they put in way back, nor for the last weeks they have been working. For the coming month, the INP should comply with a contract clause which deals with the books and school equipment for the children of the workers and the directorate said that there is no money for that. They also owe benefits to the retirees. The sum comes to 15 million bolívares."

"We feel that there are many things to be investigated there."

"For example," Castaneda pointed out, "the rental of machinery to private enterprises, the absence of real maintenance programs, because the institute's equipment is deteriorating, and things having to do with the concessions to private ports and checking on the weight of the goods."

"There," he added, "many irregularities have been committed and they have to do with the fraud that was committed against the INP; we must determine the responsibilities in this respect."

Castaneda also talked about the revision of the rate schedule and the establishment of a National Council of Courts. It does exist, but since it does not do anything, it has become a white elephant.

"Do the weeks for which the port workers have not been paid include those that caused the shutdown of Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo?"

"Yes, of course, yes," replied Castaneda. "This situation is a matter of great concern for us because nobody works if you do not pay them and this might lead to a conflict which would really be serious."

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CSO: 3348/642

MINISTERS ANTICIPATE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN PUBLIC SERVICES

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 23 Aug 83 p 2-24

[Article by R. Blanco Ascanio: "Four Ministers in Senate Announce Cut in Public Services due to Budget Shortages"]

[Text] Personnel layoffs, failure to comply with collective bargaining rules, and neglect of indispensable services. Sickness rate may once again go up in Venezuela if diseases, such as yellow fever, polio, and human rabies, as well as tuberculosis, leprosy, and measles appear due to the lack of money with which to buy vaccines. Education cannot pay teacher salaries as of the first half of January, Minister Montilla says.

A cut in indispensable services could be the result of the passage of the 1984 budget bill if it is approved with the budget reductions that were approved during the first discussion in the Chamber of Deputies, according to four members of the executive branch who yesterday went to the Finance Committee of the Senate Chamber.

The ministers of transportation and communications, of health and social welfare, of education, and of agriculture and animal husbandry said that their departments were those that were most hard-hit by the cuts made in the Chamber of Deputies. This budget would lead to personnel layoffs, failure to comply with collective bargaining rules, neglect of indispensable services, such as health, failure to pay teacher salaries, complete disappearance of the maintenance of educational institutions, increase in malaria throughout the country, forced cutbacks in the purchase of medical and surgical equipment, paralysis of road maintenance services, and obligatory suspension of programs for the opening of new hospital centers, among other negative consequences.

The briefing by the ministers in defending their budgets was presented to the committee of the High Chamber chaired by senators Oscar de Gurrucaga and Wolfgang Larrazabal; the committee consists of senators Pedro Paris Montesinos, Pedro Pablo Aguilar, Waldemar Cordero Vale, and Eloy Parraga Villamarin.

The Finance Committee has 10 days to submit its report in accordance with parliamentary rules in postponing [extending] the sessions for 30 days.

The committee will conduct the necessary consultations with the ministers, the attorney general, and the comptroller general of the republic in order then to submit its conclusions to the Chamber.

The leader of the parliamentary delegation of the Social Christian Party Dr Leonardo Ferrer, said last week that, apart from resolving the internal disagreements within the administration party, regarding the budget, they will also get together with the political parties represented in the Congress to seek a way out of what he called legal and constitutional observations on which he based his opposition to the projects of his fellow party member Pedro Pablo Aguilar.

Changes

The first to appear before the Finance Committee was Transportation and Communications Minister Francisco Lara Garcia who was accompanied by several of his division chiefs and came with a document containing his observations and suggestions.

The transportation minister pointed out that, starting in 1982, the budget allocations for his department had been cut back drastically and this, on the one hand, made it necessary to rationalize fund requests and, on the other hand, to cut back on the demand for services.

Minister Lara Garcia said that, during the drafting of the budget for 1984, countless documents were submitted to the Central Budget Office regarding budget policy and "it seems that the Chamber of Deputies was completely unaware of the existence of those annexes as basic elements for any analysis and proceeded to pass a modified budget."

The changes in the 1984 budget boiled down to a reduction of 436 million in the shares for the operation of the general directorates. Those reductions, which were approved by the Chamber of Deputies, caused the following effects:

Personnel layoffs, failure to comply with collective bargaining rules, neglect of essential services, paralysis of road maintenance services as of May 1984, and collapse of attached institutions.

With those 436 million, the Chamber of Deputies made some reallocations, creating a total portion of 127 million and the difference of 288 million was distributed over a list of works projects while at the same time it was pointed out that funds would not be allocated for road maintenance nor for priority projects in the states of Tachira, Trujillo, and in the eastern part of the country as well as Caracas, such as the La Planicie tunnels and urban street work.

Health Sector

Health Minister Luis Jose Gonzalez Herrera submitted a dramatic picture of services in line with the 1984 budget allocations; although he pointed out that the country's economic situation cannot be ignored, experience however teaches us--he said--that the health sector must receive special attention.

In view of the above, it is believed that the size of the cut in the various parts of the budget draft for the SAS [Health and Social Welfare] is dangerous. It affects the department in the following manner:

Due to the reduction in the item for wages, it will be necessary to eliminate approximately more than 1,000 jobs and when the portion for replacements is eliminated, the various services provided at the hospitals would be severely reduced and some would even be entirely closed down. This would cause serious conflicts with the various unions since it would not be possible to pay the premiums which were granted them by resolution.

Education

Education Minister Felipe Montilla was quite specific in his testimony. He brought out statistics and used them in trying to illustrate the difficult situation which his office will face if the budget draft is approved as submitted by the Chamber of Deputies.

The reduction in the education method comes to 545 million bolivares and three specific items are affected: Wages and allowances, collective bargaining and services, as well as higher education.

In the first case, the total cut is 174 million, including 83 million to pay classroom teachers, in other words, the amount corresponding to 1 year's wages for 1,976 educators and this would be equivalent to a registration of 83,000 students. The wage scale portion was reduced by 80 percent, in other words, 193.2 million were sliced off; this will create problems with teachers because they are not going to accept the idea that their wages should be simply wiped out without reference to the wage scale since the latter, by law, also specifies what is to be paid out.

Felipe Montilla said that these reductions will create problems when it comes to paying the teachers as of the first half of January. There was also a reduction in the department's contribution to social security as well as regarding compliance with contract commitments toward the workers.

Montilla also mentioned that there are substantial reductions in higher education, both in the university institutes and colleges as well as the universities themselves. The amount for the university colleges was reduced by 12.9 million and for the coming year, institutes will be taking care of a little more than 90,000 students.

Finally he said that the universities lost 63.9 million which was the budget amount for the two experimental universities. He added that the budget for the universities had been carried since 1981 and now the reduction does not jibe with the nation's higher education situation.

Agriculture

For lady minister Nydia Villegas, the situation is becoming serious in the field of research since the money for FONAIAP [expansion unknown] was reduced

substantially; the lady minister pointed out that the country is now going through a difficult situation and it is therefore indispensable to boost agriculture.

She said that her department lost 118 million and she hopes that this amount will be restored. Originally, she requested 7,000 million as the ideal budget; but because of the situation, the figure was scaled down to 3,500 million in the end from which the Chamber of Deputies sliced another 118 million. She felt that the Congress can make a more favorable decision for national agriculture.

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28 Sept 1983